THE TIMES

Tuesday September 19 2023 | thetimes.co.uk | No 74205

£2.80 £2.00 to subscribers
(based on a 7 Day Print and Digital Subscription)



Stolen a gym towel? The rise of the posh pilferer

INSIDE TIMES2

Rishi likes Emily in Paris. I get it
Robert Crampton

Woman goes to Met Police after Brand investigation

Officers told of alleged sexual assault in 2003

Paul Morgan-Bentley
Head of Investigations
Charlotte Wace
Rosamund Urwin
Media Editor, The Sunday Times

Police have received a report of an alleged sexual assault in central London in 2003 after a Times investigation into Russell Brand's treatment of women.

The Metropolitan Police said the alleged attack took place in Soho and that officers were in contact with the woman. The woman went to the police on Sunday, in the hours after The Times, The Sunday Times and Channel 4's *Dispatches* revealed that Brand was facing allegations of sexual assault from four other women.

The comedian, actor and former BBC and Channel 4 presenter has been accused by other women of controlling, abusive and predatory behaviour.

Brand has denied the allegations and said his relationships have all been consensual. His representatives have been contacted for comment about the police report.

The Met said yesterday that it had begun inquiries into Brand's alleged mistreatment of women and called on anyone with information to contact officers.

A spokesman said: "On Sunday, September 17, the Met received a report of a sexual assault which was alleged to have taken place in Soho in central London in 2003. Officers are in contact with the woman and will be providing her with support."

It said it had spoken to journalists who had worked on the investigation "to ensure that anyone who believes they have been the victim of a sexual offence is aware of how to report this to the police", adding: "We continue to encourage anyone who believes they may have been a victim of a sexual offence, no matter how long ago, to contact us."

Other developments:

- The comedian's live tour was postponed by the promoters. Planned gigs had included one in Windsor tonight.
- Brand's publicist became the latest of his representatives to announce that she would no longer work with him.
- He was dropped by his publisher Bluebird, an imprint of Pan Macmillan, and removed from a poetry collection put together by Jeremy Corbyn and Len McCluskey, former leaders of Labour and the union Unite.
- A rehabilitation charity said it had "severed all ties" with Brand, following a similar announcement by a domestic violence charity.
- The BBC faced political pressure to come clean about the full history of complaints received about Brand.
- Production bosses who oversaw his work as a Channel 4 presenter in the early 2000s admitted that they had known he was a "predator".
- A woman who accuses Brand of sexually assaulting her when she was a teenager described his denial of the allegations as "insulting".
- A woman alleged that Brand taunted her about her looks and sang about the Soham killer Ian Huntley during sex.

This weekend an investigation revealed that Brand was facing allegations of rape, sexual assaults and emotional abuse during seven years when he was at the height of his fame. Since then, more women have contacted

Continued on page 2

LUCY NORTH/PA



Burberry checks in Jodie Comer, who played the stylish assassin Villanelle in the TV drama Killing Eve, was suitably dressed for the Burberry show yesterday, as London Fashion Week drew to a close Page 15

'Minimum service' rule to curb mass NHS strikes

Chris Smyth Whitehall Editor
Kat Lay Health Editor

Doctors will be ordered off the picket line to ensure safety in hospitals, ministers will say today as they seek to blunt the impact of "nightmarish" industrial disputes on the NHS.

Clinical staff deemed critical to safety will risk the sack if they refuse to work, under plans for minimum service levels in hospitals to be set out as junior doctors and consultants walk out together for the first time.

Ministers insist that the measures are needed to protect patients after cases of hospitals left dangerously short-staffed during recent industrial action.

But they risk further poisoning relations with unions. NHS bosses warn it could heighten tension in hospitals. The British Medical Association has criticised "heavy-handed" rules which it says will drive staff out of the NHS.

Consultants walk out for 48 hours from today and health chiefs have said that cancer patients are among those having operations cancelled twice because of prolonged strikes. Postponements are leaving people in pain, with worsening symptoms and declining mental health, patients' leaders say.

Junior doctors will join the walkout tomorrow and stay on strike on Thursday and Friday, in what No 10 said posed "a huge challenge for the NHS".

Steve Barclay, the health secretary, said: "This week's co-ordinated and calculated strike action will create further disruption and misery for patients and NHS colleagues."

He argued that minimum service rules "would provide a safety net for trusts and an assurance to the public that vital health services will be there when they need them", adding: "In the face of ongoing and escalating strike action, we will continue to take steps to protect patient safety and ensure the health service has the staff it needs to operate."

Under laws passed this summer, Barclay has wide powers to define minimum service levels. He will begin a consultation today on defining what this means for doctors, nurses and others working in hospitals. Once these service levels have been set out, NHS bosses will be able to specify which staff

Continued on page 2

IN THE NEWS

Starmer setback
The European Union will not agree a "soft touch" Brexit deal with a future Labour government, Sir Keir Starmer was told, as Brussels played down the prospect. **Page 10**

Bragg tackles Lineker
Gary Lineker's salary of up to £1.35 million is excessive and opens the BBC up to attack, Melvyn Bragg, the veteran presenter of *In Our Time* on Radio 4, has said. **Page 17**

Iran prisoners deal
Five Americans held for years by Tehran, including a joint British citizen, were freed in a swap for five Iranians held in the US and the unfreezing of $6 billion of assets. **Page 28**

Electric car sales stall
Hopes for the mainstream adoption of electric cars have been punctured by a fall of more than 11 per cent in the sale of zero-emission vehicles to private buyers. **Page 33**

'Let's win ugly again'
Joe Marler has hit back at criticism of England's pragmatic style of play and said that "winning ugly" is how the 2003 team lifted the Rugby World Cup. **Page 62**

38 9 771742 498325

VISIT…

LANZAROTE Caliente.com

Today's highlights

7.05am **Steve Barclay**, the health secretary

7.35am **Richard Ratcliffe**, husband of the former Iranian prisoner Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe

2pm **Professor Green**, rapper, actor, television personality and mental health activist

3.35pm **Trinny Woodall**, TV personality and entrepreneur, right, discusses her new book, Fearless

8.10pm **Dr Billy Palmer**, senior fellow at the Nuffield Trust



TIMES RADIO

DAB RADIO ● ONLINE ● SMART SPEAKER ● APP

TODAY'S EDITION

NEWS



LIFE AND SOUL
Emergency kit had the Princess of Wales in giggles
PAGE 13

SPORT



RESTLESS
Joe Root will join the England squad against Ireland
PAGE 54

TIMES2



SOUND ADVICE
What if you can't bear the noise of a partner's breathing
PAGES 6-7

174 days since Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich was detained in Russia

#FreeEvan



Met could sack 60 a month

At least 60 officers from the Metropolitan Police could be sacked every month for the next two years as senior figures warned of more "abhorrent" misconduct cases coming to light. **Page 9**

Showjumpers' £50k tack theft

A former Horse of the Year Show winner and his partner have been labelled "greedy" after they stole more than £50,000 worth of tack from riders who were competing across the country. **Page 13**

US searches for missing F-35 jet

The US military has appealed to the public to help track down a stealth fighter jet after its pilot ejected due to a "mishap". The F-35 warplane disappeared in South Carolina on Sunday. **Page 32**

LETTERS 26
LEADING ARTICLES 27
WORLD 28
BUSINESS 33
REGISTER 47
COURT CIRCULAR 49
SPORT 52
CROSSWORD 62
TV & RADIO TIMES2

FOLLOW US

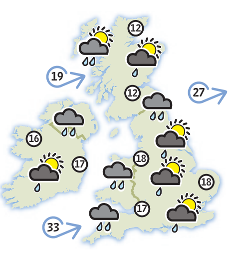
thetimes timesandsundaytimes thetimes

OFFER

Students can subscribe to The Times and The Sunday Times for just £9.99 a year

THETIMES.CO.UK/SUBSCRIBE

THE WEATHER



Mainly cloudy, blustery and humid with rain but fresher with showers in Scotland. **Full forecast, page 51**

© TIMES MEDIA LIMITED, 2023. Published in print and all other derivative formats by Times Media Ltd, 1 London Bridge St, London, SE1 9GF, telephone 020 7782 5000. Printed by: Newsprinters (Broxbourne) Ltd, Great Cambridge Rd, Waltham Cross, EN8 8DY; Newsprinters (Knowsley) Ltd, Kitling Rd, Prescot, Merseyside, L34 9HN; Newsprinters (Eurocentral) Ltd, Byramsmuir Road, Holytown, Motherwell, ML1 1NP; Associated Printing (Carn) Ltd, Morton 2 Esky Drive, Carn Industial Estate, Portadown, BT63 5YY; KP Services, La Rue Martel, La Rue des Pres Trading Estate, St Saviour, Jersey, JE2 7QR. For permission to copy articles or headlines for internal information purposes contact Newspaper Licensing Agency at PO Box 101, Tunbridge Wells, TN1 1WX, tel 01892 525274,email copy@nla.co.uk. For all other reproduction and licensing inquiries contact Licensing Department, 1 London Bridge St, London, SE1 9GF, telephone 020 7711 7888, e-mail enquiries@newslicensing.co.uk

IT scandal postmasters offered £600k for wrongful convictions

Tom Witherow

Every wrongfully convicted postmaster victim of the Horizon accounting scandal will be offered compensation of £600,000, the government has announced.

Only a handful of the 700 postmasters who faced prosecution for crimes such as fraud and theft have received full compensation.

Now the business department has said all those who successfully overturn their convictions in the appeal courts can claim a sum of £600,000, "no ifs or buts". So far, 86 have done this, meaning at least £51.6 million will be paid out.

Lawyers representing postmasters said they were "surprised" by the announcement, which they feared could push stricken postmasters to accept less than they are owed.

Between 1999 and 2015, hundreds of owner-managers of local post office branches were wrongly accused of taking money from their own tills, when a newly installed computer system was to blame. Many of those affected never worked again and served time in jail, while four took their own lives. Two years after dozens of convictions were overturned, £21 million has been paid out in interim compensation packages and four people have received a final settlement.

Kevin Hollinrake, the postal affairs minister, said the government admitted the sum would not be enough for many, forcing them to fight on.

"If you've suffered — if you've spent time in jail, if you lost your house, if your marriage has failed, all those things — if those things have happened to you, no amount of money will ever be enough," he said. "If you think your claim is worth more than £600,000, you can still go through the normal routes."

Those who have already received initial compensation payments or have reached a lower settlement will be paid the difference.

Neil Hudgell, a lawyer representing 70 postmasters, said: "Having spent many months negotiating with the Post Office and the government as to what would represent fair and full compensation … we are somewhat surprised by this sudden announcement. The government has said these offers are optional, but my fear is that, due to the delays we have already faced and the particular circumstances many sub-postmasters face, some may feel pressured to accept this offer, even though their claims are worth much more.

"In isolation, £600,000 may sound like a lot of money — and it is. But in many cases it is nowhere near enough to represent what has been lost over the last two decades."

The Times understands that the highest claims run into millions of pounds.

Under a separate scheme, compensation of £102 million has been offered to 2,016 victims who lost money in the scandal but were not prosecuted. Under a third scheme, 500 more will receive payouts by August next year.

Kevan Jones, a Labour MP and government adviser on compensation, said: "This is a small and welcome step for those sub-postmasters with overturned convictions. Over 800 sub-postmasters prosecuted and convicted by the Post Office have not had their case reviewed. The government needs to find a mechanism for these cases to be looked at."

Two in five children didn't see NHS dentist last year

Millions of children in England were not seen by an NHS dentist last year, figures show.

Data obtained by the Liberal Democrats shows that 4.4 million children in England were not seen by an NHS dentist in the year to June 2023. This equates to 39 per cent of all children.

The figures, from the Commons Library, show that only half of children in the east of England have seen an NHS dentist in the past year.

The data does not show the proportion of children who had seen a private dentist.

The nhs.uk website says children should see a dentist at least once a year and adults can wait two years between visits if they have good oral health.

The figures show that 51.2 per cent of adults have not been seen by an NHS dentist in the past two years.

The Lib Dems have called for an "emergency rescue plan" for NHS dentistry. "Every parent knows how important it is to ensure that their children can see a dentist when they need to," Daisy Cooper, the party's deputy leader and health spokeswoman, said. "Leaving children in pain can disrupt their eating, sleeping and learning. The fact that ministers are failing to deliver this is completely unacceptable.

"This has to act as a wake-up call for the government. A rescue package is urgently needed.

"That means reforming NHS dentistry to boost the number of appointments, supervised teeth cleaning in schools and childcare settings and removing VAT on children's toothbrushes and toothpaste."

Eddie Crouch, chairman of the British Dental Association, said: "Our youngest patients are already paying the price for a crisis made in Westminster. These access problems are the result of political choices. Every political party needs to wake up and offer a plan of action, otherwise this service won't have a future."

In February The Times reported that debt among dental students had more than doubled in the past ten years to £50,000 and is deterring poorer school-leavers from choosing the profession.

Experts say this risks escalating severe workforce problems and that ministers cannot "rely on the Bank of Mum and Dad" to come to the rescue.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Minimum service levels for NHS

they need to work during industrial action. Staff will lose protection under employment law if they refuse. Barclay hopes to introduce powers next year.

The BMA said that the plans were an attempt to stifle NHS workers' rights. It was "disingenuous" of Barclay to claim the strikes did not maintain minimum staffing, Professor Phil Banfield, chairman of the BMA council, said.

Saffron Cordery, of the hospitals' group NHS Providers, said that introducing such rules "risks worsening industrial relations at a time when we need government and unions to get around the table" and "doesn't address any of the issues underlying current strike action, including dissatisfaction with pay and working conditions".

Barclay says he is open to discussing "non-pay elements" of doctors' discontent but insists that pay talks are over after accepting pay review recommendations worth 8.8 per cent for the average junior doctor, and 6 per cent for consultants, backdated to April.

The BMA wants 35 per cent for "full pay restoration" to 2008 levels.

Matthew Taylor, head of the NHS Confederation, warned of an "increasingly nightmarish scenario for patients" as co-ordinated strikes put them "at the highest level of risk in living memory".

Joint strike, letters, page 26

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Police told of alleged sex assault

reporters with claims about their experiences with Brand. These will be rigorously checked.

One woman, referred to as Nadia, alleges that Brand raped her in July 2012 at his home in Los Angeles. She was treated at a rape crisis centre the same day, according to medical notes.

Another, who is being referred to as Alice, alleges a sexual assault by Brand when she was 16. Yesterday she told *Woman's Hour* on BBC Radio 4 that she was not surprised Brand had denied the allegations, or presented them as a conspiracy by traditional media outlets. "I think it's insulting, and it is laughable that he would even imply that it's a mainstream media conspiracy. He's not outside of mainstream media," she said.

Speaking of his YouTube channel, which has 6.6 million followers, she said: "I think he was building himself an audience for years that would then have great distrust of any publication that came forward with allegations. He knew it was coming for a long time."

Brand has faced a commercial backlash since Saturday. As the BBC and Channel 4 launched investigations into his alleged behaviour, a number of organisations severed ties with him.

Brand's longstanding publicist, Moira Bellas, of MBC PR, confirmed yesterday that she and the firm were no longer representing him. Brand's literary agency, Tavistock Wood, has terminated all professional ties to him.

Bluebird had been due to publish his latest book, *Recovery: the Workbook*, in December, but said it had paused all future publishing with Brand.

The Times and The Sunday Times gave Brand eight days to reply to allegations. Lawyers for him initially said that they were not in a position to provide any response because we had posed a "large litany of questions" and had chosen to anonymise the names of the women. Pressed to provide a full response, the same lawyers did not reply.

When given further opportunity to respond, Brand broadcast a statement on his YouTube channel saying "amidst this litany of astonishing, rather baroque attacks are some very serious allegations that I absolutely refute".

He said his relationships had always been consensual. He accused the media of a co-ordinated attack and said there were witnesses whose evidence directly contradicted the narratives.

The Times and The Sunday Times asked his lawyer for the evidence referred to but no answer was provided.

Additional reporting: Mario Ledwith

Reports, pages 4-7

Shame of rock bible's founder who championed a whiter shade of male

A writer has apologised for failing to cover black and female artists in his book of music greats, **Will Pavia** reports

KEVIN MAZUR/WIREIMAGE.COM



Mick Jagger with Jann Wenner, the co-founder of Rolling Stone magazine. Jagger was among his "philosophers of rock" but Joni Mitchell and Prince failed to make the grade

During a frank interview published on Friday about the musicians he regards as "the masters" of rock'n'roll music, Jann Wenner, co-founder of Rolling Stone magazine, explained that he had left out various female and black musicians because they had never quite managed to "articulate at that level".

He also joked that he would await the judgment of history. In the event, he did not have to wait that long. Hours after his remarks were published, Wenner, a 77-year-old white man, was removed from the board of directors of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, another organisation that he co-founded.

The judgment, and mockery, from fellow writers and critics, also came swiftly. Jeneé Darden, a journalist and author, noted "the irony of Rolling Stone co-founder Jann Wenner dismissing black and female artists when he got the name of his magazine from a Muddy Waters song".

Joe Hagan, author of a biography of Wenner and the magazine, suggested that the staff of Rolling Stone were feeling "pretty bummed out today" and directed his followers on social media to a complaint made by the other co-founder, Ralph Gleason, before he died in 1975, that their magazine had become "a white publication".

"Rolling Stone has not covered black music with either intelligence or space or effort or time," he said, according to Hagan.

Wenner stirred this controversy in an interview with The New York Times to promote his new book, *The Masters*, a collection of interviews that he conducted while at the helm of the magazine, with John Lennon, Bob Dylan, Mick Jagger, Bono, Jerry Garcia and Pete Townshend. For the sake of the book, he also conducted a new interview with Bruce Springsteen. His publishers billed the book as a "must-have volume about the artists who changed history".

Asked why he did not include any women, or black musicians, he defended himself by saying that this was not "a deliberate selection" but was "kind of intuitive over the years" and reflected his "personal interest and love of them".





Then he added: "Insofar as the women, just none of them were as articulate enough on this intellectual level."

The reporter, David Marchese, suggested that he might want to "rephrase" his comments. "You're telling me Joni Mitchell is not articulate enough on an intellectual level?" he asked.

Wenner replied: "It's not that they're not creative geniuses. It's not that they're inarticulate, although, go have a deep conversation with Grace Slick or Janis Joplin. Please, be my guest. You know, Joni was not a philosopher of rock'n'roll. She didn't, in my mind, meet that test. Not by her work, not by other interviews she did.

"The people I interviewed were the kind of philosophers of rock."

He then suggested that the problem was that he had used a word "as broad as 'masters'" to define his subjects.

"Of black artists — you know, Stevie Wonder, genius, right?" he said. "Maybe Marvin Gaye, or Curtis Mayfield? I mean, they just didn't articulate at that level."

Asked how he could be sure of this, he replied: "Because I read interviews with them. I listen to their music. I mean, look at what Pete Townshend was writing about, or Jagger, or any of them. They were deep things about a particular generation, a particular spirit and a particular attitude about rock'n'roll. Not that the others weren't, but these were the ones that could really articulate it."

Wenner then acknowledged that "just for public relations' sake, maybe I should have gone and found one black and one woman artist to include here that didn't measure up to that same historical standard, just to avert this kind of criticism". He added that "maybe I'm old fashioned… I wish in retrospect I could have interviewed Marvin Gaye. Maybe he'd have been the guy. Maybe Otis Redding, had he lived, would have been the guy."

Wenner has since issued an apology through his publisher. "In my interview with The New York Times I made comments that diminished the contributions, genius and impact of black and women artists and I apologise wholeheartedly for those remarks," he said.

"I totally understand the inflammatory nature and badly chosen words and deeply apologise and accept the consequences."

Omissions prove he just didn't listen

Will Hodgkinson
Comment

When Jann Wenner claimed that black and female artists were not "articulate enough" to make it into his book *The Masters*, you had to wonder: has he actually bothered listening to any of them?

His treatise on the "philosophers of rock" praises Bruce Springsteen, Pete Townshend, Mick Jagger, Jerry Garcia and John Lennon. Brilliant songwriters, but did any evoke the desolation and complexity of intimacy in a line as perfect as: "There's no comprehending/ Just how close to the bone and the skin and the eyes/ And the lips you can get/ And still feel so alone"? No, that was Joni Mitchell in *Coyote*. Did they capture the Aids crisis with the economic poignancy of "In France a skinny man died of a big disease with a little name"? Prince did that in the opening line to *Sign O' The Times*. And nobody among Wenner's list of august talents captured everyday inequality like Marvin Gaye on *Inner City Blues*, with its suggestion: "Rockets, moon shots/ Spend it on the have nots".

The main thing about Wenner's list is a lack of imagination. These are names who benefited from an era when it was that much harder for anyone who wasn't a white rock star to get the breaks. But Sly Stone was as important, not only in leading America's first black-white, male-female arena-filling band but also by promoting unity in such classics as *Everyday People* and *Family Affair*. Carole King's 1971 album *Tapestry* articulated the realities of domestic life after the upset of the 1960s hippie revolution, and she was a master of her craft.

My suspicion is that with *The Masters* he is aligning himself to the men he wants to hang with, dangerous for any rock hack to give into. It makes me think of one of the greatest songs of all time by another woman conspicuous by her absence. As Carly Simon once sang, "You're so vain/ You probably think this song is about you."

Roger Whittaker, 87, leaves old Durham town for the last time

George Sandeman

The folk singer Roger Whittaker, known for his 1969 hit song *Durham Town* and his expert whistling, has died aged 87.

He had been living in the south of France with his wife, Natalie, and died on Wednesday after a stroke, according to The Sun. A funeral will be held in the country next week with a memorial service in the UK at a later date.

Durham Town (The Leavin'), written by Whittaker, is a lament about leaving one's hometown that curiously has a verse about the Tyne, some 15 miles to the north. It spent 18 weeks in the UK singles chart and peaked at No 12. It was originally titled *The Leaver* and had success in Ireland, Canada and the US.

Whittaker sold about 60 million records during his 40-year career and was particularly well known in Germany, having recorded songs in their language and starred in concert tours there. Other hits included *New World in the Morning*, which reached No 17 in the UK charts, and *I Don't Believe in If Anymore*, which reached No 8. Both were released in 1970.



Roger Whittaker died in France after a stroke

He began his career in folk clubs and his best performing single was *The Last Farewell*, which was released in 1971 but only found mainstream popularity several years later when the wife of a US radio station executive was travelling in Canada and heard it on the air. She persuaded her husband to include it on his station's playlist and the song took off in the summer of 1975. It reached No 19 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart, number 1 on the Billboard adult contemporary chart, and was only denied the No 1 spot in the UK by Rod Stewart's *Sailing*.

He went on to achieve huge success with the *Skye Boat Song*, a duet with Des O'Connor, in 1986.

Speaking previously about what he would like his legacy to be, Whittaker said: "I'd like to be remembered as somebody who wrote some pretty good songs, the sort of songs that people will listen to again and again.

"*Durham Town* is in the British Folk Library now and I'm delighted with that."

Whittaker was born on March 22, 1936, in Nairobi, Kenya, and it is said that he knew Swahili before he could speak English. He is survived by his wife, Natalie, whom he married in 1964, and their five children.

‘We went to his house . . . then he

Paul Morgan-Bentley
Head of Investigations
Charlotte Wace
Rosamund Urwin Media Editor,
The Sunday Times

A woman claims that Russell Brand taunted her about her looks and sang about the Soham killer Ian Huntley during sex.

Lisa, whose real identity is being protected, says she met Brand in 2008, when she was in her early twenties, and that she was invited to his house with a female friend of hers and they went on to have a threesome.

She says that the two women's real names sounded vaguely similar to "Holly and Jessica", the names of the ten-year-old girls who were murdered by Huntley in 2002.

"He started talking about Ian Huntley, the paedophile and child killer, and mentioned it quite a few times, like in a joking way, but also made up a whole song about it," she said.

"I just couldn't understand why you would be able to have sex and talk about a child killer at the same time."

Brand did not respond to this claim when it was put to him but has denied unrelated allegations of assault made by four women this weekend

Lisa claims that Brand offered the women alcohol from his fridge, and she found this "weird" because he was teetotal. She alleges that during the sexual encounter she and her friend started laughing, because they were "quite nervous", and Brand replying: "Can you two stop laughing because I don't want to do this, I have to do it."

She says that after leaving Brand's house she kept in touch with him by phone and he offered to give her an endorsement quote for a book she was writing at the time.

She claims that Brand sent a quote by text and then asked her to go to his house "to finalise it". She says she believes it was about three or four nights later that she returned to his house and, when she arrived, there was another woman there who she had not met before. She says: "It was quickly quite clear that I was there to have a threesome with him and this woman that I'd never met. And I was just like, no. No."

When Lisa allegedly refused to have another threesome with Brand, she says he "took it quite badly" and was "very instantly quite annoyed". Lisa was wearing skinny jeans and an Ed Hardy hoodie and she remembers Brand becoming angry and mocking her appearance by asking her why she had "turned up here dressed like a cleaner".

Brand then allegedly told her she was no longer able to use the quote for the front cover of her book. Lisa said she ran out of his house crying and did not speak to Brand again.

Esme, whose identity is also being protected, says she met Brand at a party about 15 years ago, when she was in her mid-twenties, and afterwards they went for dinner together at a country pub before he offered her a lift back with his driver to London, where they both lived.

> “Of course you want to sleep with me. Why wouldn't you want to sleep with me?”

They allegedly kissed and Brand asked if she wanted to come back to his house, but she said "no".

When the car then stopped it was dark and Esme says she realised they were outside his townhouse in Hampstead. She says: "I think I even said: 'you couple of bastards! You've got some kind of look between you that even when I said no, you still took me here'." She says she went inside and they kissed and there was some intimate touching but she then left soon after.

Esme alleges that she and Brand met up again and, on that occasion, he was threatening and verbally abusive towards her when she refused to have sex with him.

She says: "I remember really clearly, even though it was a long time ago, it felt like a kind of scripted response: so it was something along the lines of 'Well of course you want to sleep with me. Why wouldn't you want to sleep with me? You've, you're just conforming to a set of rules that you've read somewhere that you're not supposed to sleep with someone on the first or second date. But you know you want to sleep with me'."

When she insisted that she did not want to have sex, Esme claims Brand became angry and said: "Well what the f*** are you doing here, then?'"

Esme alleges Brand flip-flopped between a "manipulative" approach of trying to convince her to stay, saying she didn't have to do anything with him, to getting angry when she said she wanted to leave. When she asked for a cab number so she could leave, she says he replied, "I've got a car account for girls like you".

The entertainment industry has been rocked by a range of accusations about Brand's alleged mistreatment of women. An investigation by The Times, The Sunday Times and Channel 4's *Dispatches* has also included allegations of rape and sexual assault against the comedian.

The Times and The Sunday Times gave Brand eight days within which to reply to allegations. Lawyers for Brand initially said that they were not in a position to provide any response because we had posed a "large litany of questions". Pressed to provide a full response, the same lawyers did not reply.

When given further opportunity to respond, Brand broadcast a statement on his YouTube channel saying "amidst this litany of astonishing, rather baroque attacks are some very serious allegations that I absolutely refute".

Laddish misogyny and the new world of consequences, Hugo Rifkind, page 25



Russell Brand with Katherine Ryan on the show Roast Battle in 2017. Ryan is said

What about Ukraine, says his father

Tom Witherow

Russell Brand's father has said the media are pursuing a "vendetta" against him as he defended his son against rape and sexual assault allegations.

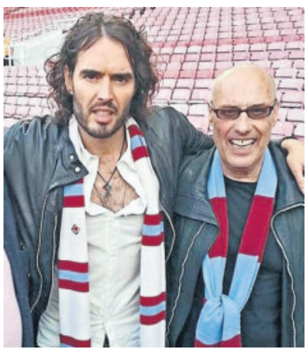
The comedian credits Ron Brand with sparking his sex addiction after he paid for him to lose his virginity to a sex worker in Hong Kong, while his father slept with two other women in the next door bed.

Yesterday Brand, 80, in a series of posts on social media, said the allegations against his son were "unproven".

"Is this seriously the most important thing happening in this world? Immigrants? Cost of living? 10s of thousands killed in Ukraine?" he wrote. "Who is prioritising at BBC News. Who is really driving this vendetta? With many struggling to pay bills. The unproven accusations of 15 years ago take lead on BBC News? [sic]"

In his autobiography, *My Booky Wook*, Brand said his earliest memories include being sat in front of pornography videos on Saturdays while his father "diddled birds in the room next door", and as an "infant" he read Playboy and Jugs magazines. Still a "little boy", he was "a weary connoisseur of my dad's pornography", adding: "I always had a premature awareness of sexuality, but Ron Brand's penchant for leaving me to occupy my infant mind with this cache of girlie magazines certainly did nothing to stem the erotic tide."

In the book Brand recalled how his



Russell Brand and his father Ron, who has come out fighting for his son

father told him to "get some champagne, Russell", as the pair walked with three sex workers to the Mandarin Palace Hotel. "My dad set about unwrapping his two prostitutes, like pass the parcel where the music never stopped," he wrote, adding that his father's only advice was to "wear a condom with that bird". He said that "during the rest of that holiday I f***ed loads more prostitutes and never wore a condom".

Brand's parents split up when he was six, and he said he had a "matriarchal" upbringing surrounded by his mother and her female friends. His father became a "sporadic" visitor. When Brand faced bankruptcy in 2012 over £13,000 in unpaid rent for his north London flat, he refused to turn to his son, by then a wealthy man. Following a court hearing, he agreed to clear the debt himself.

Prominent conspiracy theorists and right-wing commentators rushed to the defence of Brand. Controversial figures, including Andrew Tate, who is known for sharing misogynistic views online, led supporters in suggesting Brand was the victim of an "agenda". Tate, who is facing charges of rape and human trafficking in Romania, which he denies, called the allegations a "Matrix attack", a reference to the 1999 film about a simulated reality controlling humans.

References to *The Matrix* are a common theme in alt-right conspiracy theories, which Brand has previously been accused of promoting online.

In a tweet to Brand, Tate wrote "welcome to the club" alongside a meme showing an armoured knight and the words "on my way to fight the crazy bitch allegations". Tate, the so-called "king of toxic masculinity" added that he would hold an "emergency meeting" to "tell everybody the truth about whats happening to Russell Brand".

Before a joint investigation by The Times, The Sunday Times and Channel 4's Dispatches was published, Brand posted a statement online suggesting he was the victim of a "co-ordinated attack". He said: "It's been clear to me, or at least it feels to me, like there's a serious and concerted agenda to control these kind of spaces, and these kind of voices, and I mean my voice along with your voice."

Naturally, the naive

Sam Leith
Comment

Russell Brand insists his relationships have been "always consensual". But it's the reaction of the people who have leapt to Brand's defence that seems to me a bigger story, even, than the allegations against him.

Brand's pre-emptive line of defence — he put a video out on his YouTube channel a few hours before the Channel 4 programme was aired — appears similar to the one that Donald Trump routinely advances, that the misogynistic influencer Andrew Tate fell back on when clapped in irons, and that the GB News anchor Dan Wootton used when he too was facing allegations, which he denies, of sexual impropriety.

For Trump, his criminal prosecution was a politically motivated witch-hunt by the "Deep State"; for Tate, sex-trafficking charges in Romania were "the Matrix" coming to get him; for Wootton, this was all happening "because GB News is the biggest threat to the establishment in decades and they'll stop at nothing to destroy us"; and Brand, wondering whether "there was another agenda at play", hinted that these were "co-ordinated attacks" by the "mainstream media": "I'm aware that you guys have been saying in the comments for a while, watch out, Russell. They're coming for you. You're getting too close to the truth."

You'd think most sensible people

started joking about Ian Huntley'

COMEDY CENTRAL



to have confronted the comedian and has since used interviews to describe her criticism of an unnamed "predator" in TV

Female comic hinted at Brand's 'victims' as they filmed show

Rosamund Urwin, Mario Ledwith

Russell Brand's alleged sexual offending was such an "open secret" in the British entertainment industry that fellow comedians confronted him on camera six years ago.

Brand, 48, who has been accused of rape and sexual assault, which he denies, was publicly chastised about allegations in 2017 when he appeared as a judge on the first series of the Comedy Central show *Roast Battle*.

It can be revealed that one of those who confronted Brand was his co-host Katherine Ryan, who has used interviews to describe her criticism of an unnamed "predator" in British television.

Ryan's comments about her confrontation with an unidentified man over his alleged behaviour provoked discussion around the prevalence of #MeToo sexual abuse and harassment issues in the entertainment industry.

Brand was eventually dropped from the second series of *Roast Battle* by the production company Fulwell 73 because of "unrest" linked to rumours about his behaviour towards women.

In each episode of the programme, which was broadcast for four series until 2020, two pairs of guest comedians would verbally joust, with a panel of judges picking the winner. Guest comedians were told to make jokes at the expense of the three judges — Brand, Ryan and Jimmy Carr — and were told that "nothing was off-limits".

Sources said that jokes about Carr focused on his tax avoidance, while Ryan was mocked for having had cosmetic surgery. But the jokes about Brand had a much darker undertone, with comedians — including Ryan — referring to rumours of allegations against him.

In one joke, Ryan described how it was good to see Brand "looking so good", before adding: "I will remind you of that if any victims come out." Another joke by Ryan referenced his marriage to the pop star Katy Perry and how he dumped her by text.

On the first day, two episodes were filmed back to back. "After the show finished, Brand was furious that those two things had been said to him," a source said.

Brand was described as being enraged by the personal jibes. He is understood to have threatened not to return to filming if they continued.

Several sources from the show said that *Roast Battle* producers encouraged other comedians not to mock Brand. They are not understood to have specified jokes relating to women.

"I believe that if anyone had still done it [mock Brand about his sexual behaviour], he could walk immediately with full pay," another source said.

Fulwell 73 did not respond to questions about Brand's contract.

Hannah Chambers, then Brand's agent, was an associate producer on the first series. It was filmed in autumn 2017 and broadcast in early 2018.

Sources close to Fulwell 73 said that no formal complaints about Brand were made around the filming and that serious allegations against him were not known. However, they acknowledged that a "rumour mill" about Brand was in existence at the time, which resulted in an "ickiness around him".

The "unrest about his personality" is said to have been a contributing factor when he was not offered a contract to appear in the second series.

Brand has been targeted by several other comedians who have alluded to his behaviour towards women as part of their stand-up sets.

In *Backstage with Katherine Ryan*, released on Amazon Prime last year, she first spoke of an unnamed celebrity who she had confronted during filming. "I called him a predator to his face and in front of everyone that day," she said.

In November, she spoke to Louis Theroux for his *Interviews* series, and said that this man's alleged behaviour was an "open secret" in the industry.

Fulwell 73, Comedy Central, Ryan and Brand were approached for comment. Brand has denied allegations of sexual assault and said, in a video posted online on Friday night, that all of his relationships have been consensual.

cynics rushed to defend him: there's money to be made

would simply eye-roll this line of defence. But here's the thing: in their many, many thousands they did not. Social media filled with people wondering aloud why these women hadn't complained back then, parroting the "innocent until proven guilty" line as if criminal conviction was now the minimum standard of verification for a newspaper investigation, and chiming along with the line that Brand was obviously the victim of a hit job because he posed such a threat to the "establishment".

What's more, the charge was led by a catalogue of high-profile or relatively high-profile media or social media professionals. Elon Musk and Jordan Peterson; Roger Stone, Alex Jones and Tucker Carlson; GB News's Calvin Robinson ("What is their motivation?") and Bev Turner ("This proves you are winning. You're a hero"); George Galloway ("I'm no Sherlock Holmes, but I smell a giant RAT"); even The Daily Telegraph's Allison Pearson, before the reports were aired or published, mused that "my first reaction is to wonder why They [sic] are trying to silence the person". Laurence Fox, grotesquely, quoted Pastor Niemöller.

We don't know, of course, whether or not Brand is guilty of the allegations against him. He certainly denies them. In working out whether the claims are correct or not, you can test the evidence. You can seek to pick holes in the reporting. You can, if you must, take the slightly absurd view that journalists shouldn't report on allegations of criminality until the accused is safely in jail (ignoring though the difficulties of getting sexual assault cases to trial).

There are many ways to take an oppositional view of this sort of thing. But if your first reaction is to tap your nose and raise an eyebrow and, before you've even considered the report itself, speculate about the motivations of the reporting, you're a damn fool. This falls into the category that my old editor Charles Moore used to call "naive cynicism": a phrase that nicely captures the self-complimenting logic of the conspiracy theorist.

If nothing the mainstream media says can be trusted by virtue of its being the mainstream media (and serving as one the agenda of the World Economic Forum, or the paedo-lizards, or Big Pharma, or the Neoliberal Establishment, or the Postmodern Marxist Deep State, or what have you), you are adrift in an entirely post-truth environment.

You don't know more than the "sheeple" who watch the news and read newspapers: you know less. You'll pick your guru, "do your own research" down a YouTube rabbit hole algorithmically serving you ever more conspiratorial content, and you'll lose touch with the boring, fastidious, fact-based-and-needing-to-be-careful-not-to-be-sued work of professional reporters that might help you back to reality.

I haven't seen a single piece in one of those boring and fastidious mainstream media outlets challenging The Sunday Times and The Times's reporting, still less one making callow assumptions about its shadowy hidden agenda. But social media is crawling with the stuff. That's a grave bifurcation. In one sense, those vaunting "independent media" against the mainstream are right: old media really is fighting what sometimes looks like a losing battle with cranks on the internet.

You could conclude from this bifurcation that the mainstream media really is all in it together and is working to suppress the truth-telling enemies of the establishment.

Or you could conclude, as I do, that there is now a scarily large mass of ordinary people who'll believe any daft thing if they're told "the establishment" is trying to suppress it; and that there are a number of social-media celebrities, from around the world and across the political spectrum, who should know better but are making a good living out of encouraging them.

This article originally appeared on The Spectator's website

BBC resists calls to release complaints filed against Brand



Rosamund Urwin Media Editor
The Sunday Times
Paul Morgan-Bentley
Head of Investigations
Charlotte Wace

The BBC is facing growing pressure to come clean about the full history of complaints it received about Russell Brand when he was one of its star presenters.

The corporation has either ignored or refused to answer Freedom of Information (FoI) requests from The Times and The Sunday Times for information about concerns raised by staff who worked with Brand, who was a presenter on Radio 2. It said that it could not publish information about any such complaints because this could include Brand's "personal data" and that "even confirming or denying whether or not that information exists would be unfair".

Several sources have told reporters of serious concerns that were raised about Brand's behaviour when he was at the BBC, with allegations including that he exposed himself to a female colleague, had sex with BBC competition winners and used a BBC chauffeur to collect a 16-year-old girlfriend from her school.

The BBC has also failed to respond to an FoI request for a copy of a report on the 2008 Andrew Sachs phone message scandal written by Tim Davie, who was then the corporation's director of audio and music and is now its director-general. Brand resigned from the BBC after he and his co-presenter, Jonathan Ross, made prank calls to the Sachs, which resulted in more than 42,000 complaints. The pair referred to Brand having sex with the actor's granddaughter.

Mark Thompson, who was the director-general at the time, told parliament that there had been no obvious warning signs before the scandal.

The BBC and Channel 4 have now started inquiries into allegations of mistreatment by Brand, following reporting by The Times and The Sunday Times. Brand has denied the allegations and insists that all his sexual relationships have been consensual.

Downing Street has urged broadcasters that hired Brand to set out the results of their investigations "transparently". Lucy Frazer, the culture secretary, is expected to speak to the BBC and Channel 4 about their inquiries.

The prime minister's spokesman said that Rishi Sunak "has been clear there should never be any space for harassment, regardless of where it is found".

Caroline Dinenage, Tory chairwoman of the culture, media and sport select committee, said: "In a case like this, where the allegations are so serious, it's really important that the BBC is able to be as transparent as possible about what happened and when, and who knew what."

Complaints about Brand's treatment of women were made to BBC bosses before the Sachs message scandal.

Brand's boss at the BBC was Lesley Douglas, who also resigned from her job at the corporation after the scandal.

In Brand's memoir, *Booky Wook 2*, he wrote about his relationship with Douglas, and claimed she was "incredibly tolerant" of his behaviour and had "nurtured, nourished and indulged me as any good woman should".

Lawyers representing Douglas said that she "did not at any time encourage, enable and/or fail herself to take any adequate steps within her power with regard to the conduct of Russell Brand of which she was aware", adding: "She is presently unable to provide any further information which may be relevant to the matters raised in this article due to the obligations owed by her to her former employer."

Sources said that, in May 2006, a complaint was made by staff about people being naked in the studio of one of Brand's radio shows. The incident was allegedly reported to Douglas and the show's producers were asked to "rein it in". The following year, another complaint is said to have been made to his bosses after an "alarming display of aggression and disrespect", which allegedly included exposing himself in the studio and urinating in front of production staff and guests.

In July 2008, while Brand worked as a BBC presenter, it was widely reported that he had made a prank call to the police while on stage at a gig in Northampton. During the call he pretended to have spotted a man who was wanted for sex attacks in local underpasses. While on the phone to the police, Brand is said to have joked: "I've had someone come near my underpass." The prank call was condemned at the time by a rape crisis charity. Brand apologised.

Meirion Jones, a journalist whose investigation into Jimmy Savile for *Newsnight* was suppressed by the BBC, has warned that there is a "much wider problem" within the media industry. He told Times Radio that he had been contacted by numerous women who worked for the BBC, ITV, Channel 4 and independent media since the allegations about Brand were published.

He said: "One woman contacted me and said that she complained about a powerful person at the BBC who is harassing three women. In the end, the BBC protected that individual and the three women had to leave."

A spokesman for the BBC said it had clear expectations and policies on conduct at work and took the Sachs affair seriously. He said: "We hope that demonstrates that the BBC takes issues seriously and is prepared to act. Indeed, we would add that in addition to acting on the serious editorial breach at the time, the BBC has, over successive years, evolved its approach to how it manages talent and indeed how it deals with complaints or issues raised.

"We will always listen to people if they come forward with any concerns, on any issue related to any individual working at the BBC — past or present."

Miliband faces questions over interview

Steven Swinford Political Editor

Ed Miliband, the former Labour leader, has said that the allegations of rape and sexual assault made against Russell Brand are "appalling" as he faced questions over an interview with the comedian during an election.

Miliband, the shadow climate secretary, was interviewed by the comedian in 2015 and argued that Brand said "what a number of people are thinking" as he sought to win support for Labour.

Brand, 48, faces accusations of rape, sexual assault and emotional abuse in a period spanning seven years after an investigation by The Times, The Sunday Times and Channel 4's *Dispatches*. He has denied the "very, very serious criminal allegations" and said all his sexual relationships have been consensual.

A spokesman for Miliband said: "The allegations of rape and sexual assault made against Russell Brand are appalling. They must be fully investigated. Ed stands with all victims of sexual violence, and in solidarity with the women who have come forward."



Ed Miliband has not had contact with Russell Brand since the 2015 interview

Miliband conducted one interview with Brand in April 2015 for the comedian's former web series, *The Trews*. He has not had any contact with him since then. At the time none of the allegations had been made public.

Speaking in the kitchen of Brand's home, he said Britain needed to confront the "richest and most powerful".

In the 15-minute interview Miliband insisted he would stand up to big businesses, discuss media ownership and disagreed with Brand over the value of voting. "It certainly isn't apathy, Ed," said Brand, who claimed to have never voted in an election. "It's more a sense of, 'What's the point?' … Since suffrage, since the right of women to vote, what has meaningfully occurred?"

"That's just totally wrong," Miliband responded, listing how enfranchisement had led to "workers' rights, the National Health Service, the minimum wage, lesbian and gay rights". Brand dropped his "no vote" stance and urged his viewers to vote Labour.

This week, after the allegations, Miliband faced criticism from Mike Gapes, a former Labour MP. He said: "Watching this brilliant, well-researched and disturbing Channel 4 *Dispatches* programme I recall with deep distaste and disgust that some thought that being seen with this man was going to get young people to vote for Ed Miliband's Labour in 2015."

A Labour source said: "I don't think it's fair that he has to explain an interview with someone from nearly ten years ago who was popular with a lot of people at the time."

Another said that a focus on the Miliband meeting "diminishes" the allegations against Brand.

Other celebrities spoke of their misgivings years ago

George Sandeman

Several references to Russell Brand's alleged predatory behaviour have resurfaced from previous interviews.

Dannii Minogue, the pop star, called him "a bit of a vile predator" in 2006 following an appearance on his MTV chat show to promote an album.

She told The Mirror: "[Brand] is completely crazy and a bit of a vile predator. I certainly don't think he has cured his sex addiction … He wouldn't take no for an answer. Throughout the whole interview, he kept making shocking remarks that I can't even repeat. Just uttering the words would make me blush."

Katy Perry, Brand's ex-wife, told Vogue in 2013, after their separation, that he was "very controlling". She said: "I felt a lot of responsibility for it ending, but then I found out the real truth, which I can't necessarily disclose because I keep it locked in my safe for a rainy day."

During an episode of the comedy show *8 Out of 10 Cats* in 2014, the comedian Sean Lock, who died in 2021, said of Brand: "Probably the reason I hate him so much is because I'm a dad and I've got this fear that one day my daughters will bring something like that home."

London Hughes, another comedian, told her Twitter/X followers on Sunday that she was warned over a decade ago not to sleep with Brand when she signed for the same agency as him.

Georgina Baillie, whose grandfather, the actor Andrew Sachs, was subjected to a humiliating prank call by Brand during a radio show, told Mail Online that the comedian did not rape her and was not inappropriate with her during their relationship. Regarding claims Brand groomed a 16-year-old girl, she said: "If one of these complainants is 16, then that is a bit icky because he was 30 and that's very thin ice."

Brand denies the allegations of assault and has said that all his relationships have been consensual.





SHUTTERSTOCK

Russell Brand's behaviour while hosting Big Brother's Little Brother, including lowering his trousers to sit on a contestant's lap, was described as "seedy" by staff, two of whom felt they were treated as his "pimp". Sources have said that several complaints where made against him during his time at the BBC before his departure during the furore over prank calls made with Jonathan Ross, below



Senior staff at Big Brother 'all knew he was a predator'

Alex Farber Media Correspondent

Senior staff at the *Big Brother* producer Endemol have admitted to fears that Russell Brand was a "predator" during his time on the spin-off show.

A number of individuals who worked on the programme have shared their concerns about the star's behaviour after a joint investigation between The Times, The Sunday Times and Channel 4 that reported allegations of rape and sexual assault. Brand has denied the claims.

One senior executive said that the decision to title the *Dispatches* documentary *In Plain Sight* made perfect sense.

"That was his MO," they added. "We all knew he was a predator. There is no denying that he was involved in a lot of complicated sexual situations."

The source said that they had assumed that all of his relations with women were consensual. "I wasn't aware of him being involved with anyone vulnerable and if anyone had known anything then it would have been reported. Phone numbers were being passed both ways with the audience but what was I supposed to do? He was an adult and so were they."

Two former crew members who worked on *Big Brother's EFourum* and its successor *Big Mouth* said that they had felt like they were treated as Brand's "pimp" after he tasked them with approaching members of the audience to meet after filming.

Another individual, who worked for Endemol before it was bought by Banijay in 2020, said that they had found Brand's behaviour on the show "seedy" and were unsurprised at claims that he had taken things too far.

"Women were desperate to shag him," they said. "There would be a different one at the back of the studio after every show waiting to go on a date with him, including some who had never met him.

"I never understood it as they knew that he had shagged someone else the night before or earlier that day. But he was a hot ticket back then. It was gross but it was all consensual as far as we knew. But it doesn't surprise me that he took it too far with some women."

A third senior producer said that Brand's relationship with a junior colleague was common knowledge among the team. "But it was just part of working with Russell. Everyone knew — from the top to the bottom."

They claimed that Brand also had an affair with a very senior member of staff to whom he would send lewd messages during team meetings. "The whole situation was so inappropriate."

Another individual who has worked with Brand said that while his behaviour amounted to a huge "abuse of power", no alarm bells were rung formally.

"It was a massively different time," they said. "There was so little duty of care back then. It was a free-for-all and everyone is culpable because they all knew what he was like.

"No one was supporting those young women who saw it as a badge of honour to sleep with him."

Other senior staff claim to have been in the dark about his behaviour. They positioned the Big Brother spin-off as a fringe programme, which required little discussion from bosses about Brand's reputation.

Channel 4 has contacted staff members and suppliers in the wake of the allegations as its internal investigation into whether any of its staff had knowledge of them gets under way.

Alex Mahon, chief executive, described the *Dispatches* programme as a "brave and important piece of journalism" and asked that anyone with concerns speak up.

"While the allegations our team has helped unearth are deeply disturbing, I hope they can ultimately lead to further positive change in our industry, and I am committed to ensuring we are at the forefront of that change," she said.

Ian Katz, chief content officer at Channel 4, told production companies that he was "appalled" to have learnt of Brand's behaviour.

Laddish misogyny was applauded all too recently, Hugo Rifkind, page 25

Inside the Russell Brand investigation

- Follow the story on The Times live app and website
- Hear the tales of the alleged victims on the Stories of Our Times podcast
- Stay up to date with our investigative journalists on Times Radio

THE TIMES THE SUNDAY TIMES
Know your times
T LIVE
TIMES RADIO
INTELLIGENT RADIO FROM THE TIMES
Stories of our times



News

UK 'not ready' for rise in centenarians

Kat Lay Health Editor

Thousands of centenarians are living "in good health" in England and Wales, new census data has revealed.

A quarter of the 13,924 people aged 100 or above at the time of the 2021 census said that they had "good" or "very good" health.

While far fewer men than women had reached the milestone birthday, those who did so were more likely than their female counterparts to have no disability and report being in good health.

The Office for National Statistics said the number of centenarians had increased 127-fold over the past century.

The rise has prompted calls for a better strategy to deal with the UK's ageing population.

Male centenarians in 2021 had outlived their life expectancy at birth by four decades and female centenarians by three decades.

There were 11,288 female centenarians and 2,636 male, who were more likely to be married than their female counterparts. The ONS said that this was because of longer female life expectancy and "males on average tend to marry women slightly younger than themselves".



Lauretta Boston said days seem short because "I'm so slow"

Two in five centenarians lived alone, a similar proportion lived in a communal establishment — mostly care homes — and the remaining one in five lived in private households with other people.

Dr Carole Easton, chief executive at the Centre for Ageing Better, said that society was "ill prepared for this significant demographic shift".

She said: "We have an ageing population, but there is no strategy to prepare for the complex social and policy challenges this will generate. Older workers continue to be undervalued and overlooked, the vast majority of our housing does not meet the needs of the people that live in them as they age; ageism is a widespread poison within our society that is not taken seriously enough.

"This is why we need a commissioner for older people and ageing in England to act as an independent champion and ensure that policymaking across government considers the long-term needs of our ageing population."

David Sinclair, chief executive of the International Longevity Centre UK, said: "A decade ago, the House of Lords argued that we were woefully unprepared for ageing. Over the last ten years we have made little or no progress. Pensioner poverty is likely to start to increase, health inequalities have increased, too many of us leave work far too young."

While their ages ranged from 100 to 112, more than 90 per cent of centenarians identified by the census fell between the ages of 100 and 103. The local authorities with the largest numbers of centenarians per 100,000 people were all on the south coast of England. There were 64 people who had reached 100 or older per 100,000 people in East Devon, 59 per 100,000 in Arun in West Sussex, and 57 per 100,000 in the New Forest, the ONS said.

Lauretta Boston, who lives in London, turned 100 in October last year and told the ONS: "I live alone but I never get lonely. I never seem to have enough time, because everything is a big effort and I'm so slow. It takes me time to do everything, so the days seem short. I also have my music and my family and friends."



Ask in store for details.

Benefits of less salt may have stalled

Kat Lay

Improvements in heart health due to lower levels of salt in British diets have stalled, according to a study that blamed the reliance on food companies to take voluntary action.

Research from Queen Mary University of London, in the Journal of Hypertension, found average salt intake, blood pressure and deaths from heart disease and stroke had initially improved during a salt reduction scheme.

While salt intake declined from an average 9.38g per day to 7.58g between 2003 and 2014, it rose again to 8.3g in 2018. Deaths from heart disease and stroke also fell from 12.2 and 43.4 deaths per 100,000 respectively to 8.2 and 27.2 deaths per 100,000 between 2003 and 2014, followed by a plateau.

The Food Standards Agency initially set out targets for processed foods under the salt reduction programme. However, responsibility was moved to the Department of Health in 2010, which launched voluntary agreements.

Graham MacGregor, professor of cardiovascular medicine and chairman of Action on Salt, who co-authored the analysis, said: "It is now up to the government to set up a coherent strategy where the food industry is instructed what to do."

A government spokesman said: "Our salt reduction programme sets firm and clear targets for all sectors."

Quintagram® No 1737

Solve all five concise clues using each letter underneath once only

1 Contort to remove water from (5)

_ _ _ _ _

2 Circular coral formation (5)

_ _ _ _ _

3 Attraction, charm (6)

_ _ _ _ _ _

4 Gardening task (7)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _

5 New Town in Berkshire (9)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

A	A	A	A	B	C	D	E
E	E	E	G	G	I	I	K
L	L	L	L	L	N	N	N
O	P	P	R	R	T	W	W

Solutions see T2 MindGames p15
Cryptic clues T2 MindGames p14

Human remains found

Detectives investigating the deaths of an elderly couple found human remains hours after charging their daughter with the killings. Virginia McCullough, 35, of Chelmsford, Essex, has been charged with murdering her parents John, 74, and Lois McCullough, 75, between August 21, 2018, and September 15, 2023. She was remanded in custody at Chelmsford magistrates' court and will appear at Basildon crown court today. Essex police believe the remains to be of the couple.

Waiting list trans death

A trans woman who killed herself after spending 1,023 days on a waiting list for an assessment as she sought gender treatment would be alive if the NHS had taken her seriously, an inquest was told. Alice Litman, 20, from Leatherhead, Surrey, had been referred to the NHS Gender Identity Development Service in August 2019 but she died in May last year. Dr Caroline Litman, said that the NHS had "failed" her daughter. The inquest, in Hove, continues.

Murder charge for teen

A teenager has been charged with murder after a 14-year-old boy was stabbed in Manchester. Nathaniel Shani was found injured after police were called to Harpurhey, a suburb in the northeast of the city, on Friday evening. He was taken to hospital but died from his injuries. Greater Manchester police said that a 14-year-old boy, who cannot be named, had been charged. He will appear at Manchester crown court today.

TIMES RADIO
Breakfast: 6am to 10am
Our free radio station has all the latest headlines, interviews and debates every morning
Listen seven days a week
On DAB, app, website and smart speaker


‘Voyeur’ charged with murder of artist killed as she walked her dog

A suspected voyeur has been charged with the murder of Claire Knights, who was killed last month while out walking her dog.

Harrison Lawrence-van Pooss, of Margate, Kent, was charged by police yesterday. The 20-year-old was also charged with voyeurism following an investigation into a separate incident, in which upskirt images of a woman were covertly taken in Birchington-on-Sea.

He appeared via a video link before Medway magistrates’ court on Monday and was remanded until a hearing at Maidstone crown court tomorrow.

Knights, 54, was initially reported missing from the village of Upstreet, near Canterbury in Kent, on Wednesday August 23 this year.

The talented artist — described as a “trailblazer in life” — was believed to have been walking her springer spaniel, Zebulon, from her village to the Minnis Bay area of Birchington-on-Sea. Her body was discovered on August 25.



Claire Knights, 54, was described as “a trailblazer”

An inquest into her death heard that she had been found by family members, who had been conducting their own search, alongside police officers and other emergency services.

A post-mortem investigation gave her cause of death as drowning and blunt-force trauma.

Police said that her springer spaniel had been found running on the beach without a collar or lead.

In a statement released by Kent police, her family said: “Claire was a loving mum, partner, daughter and sister. An amazing contemporary artist, a trailblazer in life.”

A Kent police spokesman said: “Detectives investigating the death of a woman near Birchington have charged a man with murder. Claire Knights, 54, was initially reported missing from the village of Upstreet on Wednesday August 23.

“Detectives from the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate arrested a man on suspicion of murder the following day.

“Following extensive inquiries, Claire was found deceased in an area between St Nicholas-At-Wade and Minnis Bay on Friday August 25.”

Autumn brings a firestorm of warnings

Torrential rain caused flash flooding in southwest England, closing a Butlin’s resort in Minehead, as further flood warnings were issued across the Midlands and northeast England (Peter Chappell and George Sandeman write).

Almost a month’s rain was recorded yesterday on the edge of Exmoor, as firefighters said they were inundated by calls as flooding hit roads, homes and other buildings.

Exeter airport shut due to flooding, with staff working through the night to reopen it. Drivers were also trapped by floodwater in nearby Dawlish.

Lightning caused a ceiling to partially collapse above a bed at a house in Totnes. The resident escaped with minor injuries though sockets were blown off the wall and a lamp was shattered by the surge.

Heavy downpours and lightning could also be seen across London and the southeast on Sunday night during a thunderstorm, which followed a yellow Met Office weather warning.

The Butlin’s holiday camp in Somerset was forced to close its pool, buffet restaurant and centre stage and will reopen this week.

The country is bearing the brunt of the remnants of Hurricane Lee, which pounded northeastern US and Canada with 70mph winds at the weekend.

The band of rain that moved eastwards throughout Sunday had cleared early yesterday, but meteorologists expect the UK to have two weeks of unsettled conditions as autumn begins. Despite the wet weather easing, the Environment Agency issued flood warnings and alerts yesterday.

Jonathan Vautrey, of the Met Office, said more storms were possible as the hurricane’s remnants were set to move across the UK from today to Thursday. “Showers in places could be heavy with a risk of further thunderstorms,” he said.

Weather, page 51

GUY CORBISHLEY/ALAMY ; KALUM WINDEBANK/BNPS







The skies above London were electric on Sunday night. In Corfe Mullen, Dorset, a house burst into flames after being struck by lightning yesterday. Staff at Exeter airport worked through the night to reopen the flooded site

60 Met officers a month face sack for wrongdoing

David Woode Crime Correspondent

At least 60 Metropolitan Police officers could be sacked every month for the next two years as senior figures warned of more difficult and “abhorrent” cases coming to light.

Scotland Yard is overhauling its culture and standards to root out rogue officers who have “corrupted” the force’s integrity as public support wanes after a slew of damaging scandals.

Stuart Cundy, a deputy assistant commissioner at the Met, said 100 police officers had been sacked for gross misconduct over the past year, up two thirds on the usual rate of dismissals.

Cundy said 201 officers were suspended while 860 were on restricted duties. He added that the combined figure was “nearly the size of a small police force in other places in the country”.

He said there were 275 misconduct cases involving 300 officers awaiting a hearing. Of these cases, up from 136 last year, 38 involve allegations of violence against women and girls and 42 relate to allegations of discrimination.

Speaking at Scotland Yard, Cundy said the force expected to hold 30 misconduct hearings and 30 gross incompetence hearings a month for “one, two or more years”.

He said: “The more we do and the better we do, the more difficult cases are going to come to the fore. We have officers under investigation for rape. There are some of the most abhorrent cases I have seen in my policing career because it’s not just the fact it’s an awful offence but they are police officers.”

Cundy welcomed a Home Office plan which recommended a “presumption for dismissal, for any officer found to have committed gross misconduct”. It will be supported by a list of crimes for which conviction will automatically amount to gross misconduct.

He added: “I need that to be enacted as soon as possible because the cases that are going through because we are digging deeper, the whole process is too slow at this point in time.”

Scotland Yard has published its findings of a review of the elite VIP protection unit where Wayne Couzens and David Carrick worked. The force said that it had launched a “complete reset” of the Parliamentary and Diplomatic Protection unit’s staffing, culture and standards.

Couzens, 50, a firearms officer, was given a whole-life order for the kidnap, rape and murder of Sarah Everard in March 2021. Carrick, 48, was unmasked as one of Britain’s worst sexual offenders. In February he was jailed for life after admitting more than 80 sexual offences, including 48 rapes.

Police in athletes stop and search deny misconduct

George Sandeman

Five Metropolitan Police officers have denied gross misconduct after their involvement in the stop, search and handcuffing of the athletes Bianca Williams and her partner Ricardo dos Santos.

The couple, who have represented Great Britain and Portugal respectively as sprinters, were returning home from training and travelling with their three-month-old son in west London on July 4, 2020, when they were stopped by officers and removed from their car.

They were handcuffed in front of their son and separated from him for 45 minutes while they and their Mercedes vehicle were searched for weapons and drugs. Nothing was found.

The pair accused the Met of having racially profiled them.

Yesterday five officers appeared at a police misconduct hearing in southeast London.

Chew Yin Jones, chairman of the disciplinary panel appointed by the Met, asked each of them: “Do you accept or deny that your behaviour on July 4, 2020 amounted to gross misconduct?” Each of the officers replied: “Deny.”

It is alleged the five officers followed, pursued and stopped a car driven by a male, used force to restrain the driver and passenger, who were black, and detained them for a period of time.

Acting Sergeant Rachel Simpson and PCs Allan Casey, Jonathan Clapham, Michael Bond and Sam Franks all face allegations that they breached police standards over equality and diversity.

Simpson, Clapham, Bond and Franks also face allegations that their actions amounted to a breach of standards in relation to the use of force.

Casey is also accused of breaching professional standards in the way he carried out his duties and responsibilities or gave orders and instructions.

It is also alleged that the honesty and integrity of Casey, Clapham, Bond and Franks also breached standards.

The hearing continues.

Brussels bridles at Starmer's plan

Oliver Wright Policy Editor
Bruno Waterfield Brussels

The European Union will not agree to a "soft touch" Brexit deal with a future Labour government, Sir Keir Starmer has been warned, as Brussels played down the prospect of a significantly improved trade agreement with the UK.

The Labour leader, who is due to meet President Macron of France in Paris today, has said he would give priority to getting a "much better deal for the UK" as part of a review of the existing trade deal due in 2025.

But senior figures in London and Brussels have offered little hope of a "quick win" for Starmer, saying that the EU was wary of re-opening the Brexit debate, even with a new government in Westminster.

They also warned that the review of the Trade and Co-operation Agreement (TCA) was more about "housekeeping" than reimagining the UK and EU's relationship, and that any move to negotiate the deal would need the backing of both the European Commission and the 27 member states.

"Unless Starmer is prepared to take a quantum leap and change Labour's position on membership of the customs union then any renegotiation will really be not much more than a rebranding exercise," one EU source said. "You could call it the Dover deal, but it will still work in the same way."

Starmer has said that his party wants to extend the trade agreement to cover food safety, as well as animal and plant regulations, in an attempt to reduce or even eliminate the need for additional checks at the border. But sources in Brussels said that this would require Britain to align with existing EU phytosanitary rules.

This could be an issue for Labour as it could force them to repeal the Genetic Technology Act, which was designed to allow the UK to become a world leader in agricultural gene editing.

The government might also need to amend its approach to free trade deals to ensure that they did not clash with any new obligations to the EU.

Diplomats also stressed that any changes to agreements between the EU and Britain would have to be stable and election-proof, in the sense that a future change of government could not simply reverse them.

The EU would also be tough on the price that a future government would have to pay for requests, at a time when European governments do not have Britain high on the agenda and face serious challenges, such as migration and future enlargement to admit Ukraine and the Western Balkans.

"Starmer does not want to rejoin the EU or the single market. It is not a big change in the UK approach, so why should the Europeans rethink everything?" said a diplomat from a national government generally sympathetic to closer trade ties.

"In terms of friction the TCA works better for the EU and countries with trade ties to the UK than it does for the Brits. What is in it for us? What do we get?"

A diplomatic source involved in the TCA negotiations added: "Any new relationship would depend on the politics. The EU will insist on a balance of rights and obligations and there will be, as in Brexit overall, no cherry picking," a diplomatic source involved in the TCA negotiations said.

Wolfgang Münchau, a European commentator and director of the Eurointelligence consultancy, suggests that now Northern Ireland and the Horizon research programme had been sorted out there was little space for Starmer.

"Probably the biggest delusion yet to be unpicked is Sir Keir Starmer's repeated assertion that there is a better deal with the EU out there. This is simply not true," he wrote in his note to clients yesterday. "If your bottom line is that you do not wish to rejoin the single market and the customs union, there really is not a lot more out there."

Rory O'Donnell, a former civil servant and Brexit negotiator, now a partner at Penta Group, a consultancy on international agriculture, food and trade, sees possibilities if both sides want to move on.

"If the president of the European Commission said the TCA review is a vehicle to explore some other options it would be odd to rule it out," he said.

"Labour might have a list of issues, such as Erasmus, SPS, touring musicians, and the commission might also have things to look at. The TCA review could by mutual agreement be a vehicle for doing that."

Labour must come clean over its EU intentions, leading article, page 27

Q&A

How is Labour proposing to change the UK's Brexit deal?
Sir Keir Starmer has said that he wants to review the agreement "to get a better deal".

The Labour leader has ruled out rejoining the EU single market or customs union, but he feels there could be improvements.

One is to extend the Trade and Co-operation Agreement to cover food safety, and animal and plant regulations, to reduce border checks.

The second is to agree a limited mobility deal that would allow professionals to work or perform in the EU without needing visas from each country.

Labour also wants to review the membership of the Erasmus programme, which provides funds to students to study in European countries.

Why is Labour considering this?
Labour believes Brexit is not the electorally toxic issue it was and could be a vote winner. Recent polling showed 53 per cent favoured closer ties with the EU.

Can the Brexit deal be renegotiated?
The Trade and Co-operation Agreement is up for review in 2025 but its wording is vague. It says the parties must "review" the agreement's "implementation". This does not mean the EU would not be open to discussing it with an incoming Labour government.

The EU has reservations. The first is "cherry picking": allowing a non-member to have the benefits of club membership without the obligations.

Without serious commitments that Britain is seeking to rejoin the single market, or the EU, there is no political momentum on the European side.

The EU regards Brexit as largely settled, now the issue of Northern Ireland has been fixed.

How will this play out in the election?
The Tories were quick to seize on Starmer's suggestion that Labour would agree a migrant returns deal with the EU. There is a desire among some Tories to use Brexit as a campaigning issue to motivate its 2019 supporters. But there is nervousness that, in the cost of living crisis, that strategy could backfire.



In a speech Liz Truss defended the mini-budget which led to her resignation, and urged the Tory leadership to adopt bolder fiscal policies to avoid "continual stagnation"

Fears over Johnson 'raised with Palace'

Geraldine Scott Political Reporter

Senior officials discussed raising Boris Johnson's conduct during the pandemic with the late Queen, it has been claimed, with hopes she would address the concerns with him.

A BBC documentary has revealed that government figures held a number of phone calls and communications with Buckingham Palace about the prospect of it being discussed during the monarch's private conversations with Johnson when he was prime minister.

The claims feature in the second episode of the *Laura Kuenssberg: State of Chaos* series, exploring the turmoil in Westminster between 2016 and last year.

As they tackled the pandemic in May 2020, significant tensions were spilling over between Johnson's political team and the civil service. Sources told the documentary that senior officials had expressed their fears about Johnson's conduct to the Palace.

The Times has been told that the concerns raised with the Palace focused on Lord Sedwill, then cabinet secretary, who was the subject of repeated briefings from No 10.

"There were concerns on several levels, the attacks on the cabinet secretary were part of it," a source familiar with the briefings said. "It just felt at the time that there were no limits to where they would go."

The officials were reported to have hoped that Elizabeth would raise her concerns with Johnson during their private weekly audiences. One source claimed that Johnson "had to be reminded of the constitution".

Dominic Cummings, who was Johnson's top adviser, and Sedwill clashed more than once.

Helen MacNamara, the former deputy cabinet secretary, declined to discuss the calls but highlighted "real trouble" during the period. After Johnson was treated in hospital for Covid-19, she said there was "extreme" talk in his political team about the failings of Whitehall. She said they were taking a "kind of smash everything up, shut it all down, start again" attitude.

Johnson had caused trouble with the Palace in 2019 when he suspended the Commons before the Brexit deadline. His advice to the Queen to "prorogue" parliament was found to have been unlawful by the Supreme Court.

Buckingham Palace and Downing Street were approached for comment.



Boris Johnson with Queen Elizabeth in 2021, when the pandemic had eased

Labour seeks US help to stop foreign meddling in elections

George Grylls Defence Correspondent

The UK should set up a joint task force with the US to prevent foreign interference in next year's elections, Labour has said.

The UK could hold a general election next year at the same time as the US holds its presidential election. It would be the first time the elections on both sides of the Atlantic have happened in the same year since 1992.

John Healey, the shadow defence secretary, called for greater co-operation to prevent interference from hostile states. On a visit to Washington DC, he said that the UK and US should set up a joint democratic resilience centre to counter threats posed by Russia and China. Other Nato members could also be invited to join the treaty.

"Our countries should be on high alert ahead of the UK general election and US presidential election in 2024," he said. "Democracy and freedom is hardwired into Nato's founding treaties, alongside collective defence. Our deep conviction in democracy means we must also act to defend our democracies when under attack.

"This proposed democratic resilience centre would protect our democratic values, political institutions, elections and open societies, not only by monitoring threats, but also by advising on action and military operational responses to counter them."

Russia has interfered previously in US politics, most notably in the 2016 presidential election when the Internet Research Agency, a "troll farm" in St Petersburg founded by Yevgeny Prigozhin, the Wagner Group mercenary who died in a plane crash last month, used fake social media profiles to boost Donald Trump's campaign.

to seek 'much better' Brexit deal

LEON NEAL/GETTY IMAGES



Truss brands Sunak 'anti-growth' a year after fateful budget

Steven Swinford Political Editor
Chris Smyth Policy Editor

Labour will "weaponise" the anniversary of Liz Truss's disastrous mini-budget and forthcoming honours list this week after she rejected claims she crashed the economy while in No 10.

The former prime minister has accused Rishi Sunak of being captured by the "anti-growth coalition" as she criticised the Bank of England for taking too long to raise interest rates.

She urged the Conservatives to set out a manifesto of benefit cuts and tax breaks, as she warned Britain was heading for "continual stagnation".

In an unrepentant speech to mark a year since the politically calamitous mini-budget that forced her from office after only 49 days, Truss pinned the blame for her failure on a left-wing economic establishment, media misreporting and "scared" Tory colleagues.

Truss's premiership collapsed in the wake of her mini-budget on September 23, which included £45 billion of unfunded tax cuts, leading to turmoil in the financial markets.

Labour will use the anniversary to "remind people [the Tories] are still the same party", despite Sunak's attempts to distance himself. They will also highlight Truss's resignation honours list, which includes four people who were closely aligned with her policies.

"We will weaponise it. The prime minister has changed, but it's the same party," a senior Labour source said. "We will warn that … the Conservatives … pose the biggest economic risk."

In her speech at the Institute for Government think tank, Truss acknowledged that "communication wasn't as good as it should have been" and admitted she was "completely blindsided" by problems with pension funds caused by liability-driven investments (LDIs).

She accepted this put the UK at risk of "meltdown" and said she "would have done things differently if we'd known the fragility of the markets".

She did not mention Sunak's name during the address. However, she expressed frustration about policy since she left office. "Since last year, no major supply-side reforms or tax cuts have been allowed to happen," she said. "The anti-growth coalition is now a powerful force comprising the economic and political elite, corporatists, parts of the media and even a section of the Conservative parliamentary party."

Over the weekend Mark Carney, a former governor of the Bank of England, accused Truss and her supporters of "a basic misunderstanding of what drives economies".

Truss responded, saying: "Mark Carney is part of the 25-year economic consensus that has led to low growth."

She said the Bank of England had not focused enough on the money supply and criticised its slowness to hike interest rates and the failure to regulate LDIs. "When bond markets sense that the Bank of England isn't happy with the policies, then that creates a problem in the markets," she said.

Truss criticised the Office for Budget Responsibility for a failure to account fully for pro-growth policies, saying "the impact of regulation is understated, and the impact of tax cuts is understated".

Truss accepted that some of her policies "don't have much public support", including abolishing the 45p tax rate.

She advocated holding down benefit spending and raising the state pension age, saying welfare was "the real area where savings can be made".

In a warning to Sunak that she would press her case at next month's Conservative Party conference, Truss laid out a wish list of policies for the Tory manifesto. These include merging utility regulators; deregulation of transport and financial services; "tax breaks in return for having new homes in your area"; scrapping the planned bans on sales of new petrol and diesel cars and gas boilers; and reducing marginal tax rates "at every income level".

Tories urge PM to back northern HS2

Oliver Wright

Tory MPs have called on Rishi Sunak to commit to the northern leg of HS2 as a government minister repeatedly refused to confirm that the rail link would ever reach Manchester.

Facing a series of questions in the Commons Richard Holden, the transport minister, declined to shut down claims that the prime minister was on the verge of curtailing the project.

But his position led to criticism from a succession of Conservative MPs who warned that starting the line in outer London and ending it in Birmingham would be an "enormous false economy" and damage growth in the north.

Meanwhile, splits emerged in Labour over its policy towards HS2 after Pat McFadden, the party's election campaign co-ordinator, said at the weekend that the party would not commit to the project until it knew the full extent of the cost overruns.

He was contradicted by another shadow cabinet minister, Nick Thomas-Symonds, who told the BBC the party would build HS2 "in full".

A senior Labour source said McFadden had "deviated quite significantly" from Labour's policy insisting that the party was supporting the rail link.

However, another said that if the Conservatives chose to "blow a hole in the project" any opposition would be expected to examine its approach to the "new circumstances and possible inheritance".

Iain Stewart, the Conservative chairman of the transport select committee, warned that a failure to complete HS2 would be an "enormous false economy".

"Whether you support or oppose HS2 in principle, starting at Old Oak Common [in west London] and finishing at Birmingham, would not realise the full benefits of the line and communities will have been enormously impacted for no great benefit" he said. "Either do it properly or don't do it at all."

Mary Robinson, the Conservative MP for Cheadle, warned that levelling up would only be completed with HS2.

"In order to unlock economic growth and power northern productivity, our region must have improved connectivity both to our capital," she said.

"Our country will only be truly levelled up with a connected northern region reaching its full potential. Uncertainty around phase two is unhelpful."

But Greg Smith, Tory MP for Buckingham, said HS2 was unaffordable and that its construction was causing "human misery" in his constituency.

Holden said there was "no question of this government abandoning the north", but he repeatedly refused to clarify whether the project would run to Manchester.

Louise Haigh, Labour's shadow transport secretary said the government was proposing a "flagship levelling up project that reaches neither the north of England nor central London".

Chronic migraines force minister to stand down

Peter Chappell

Dehenna Davison, the levelling up minister, has resigned following a battle with chronic migraines.

The Bishop Auckland MP said in a resignation letter to Rishi Sunak that the condition "had a great impact on my ability to carry out the role".

Davison, 30, was seen as a rising star in the Conservative Party. However, she announced yesterday that she would stand down at the next election and wished to dedicate more of her time to "life outside politics, mainly to my family".

"Some days I'm fine, but on others it is difficult, if not impossible, to keep up with the demands of ministerial life," she wrote in a letter to the prime minister.

Davison had served as a levelling up minister since September last year and said the role had been "an immense privilege that I will for ever remember".

In response to her resignation, Michael Gove, the levelling up secretary, said he was "really sorry" to lose her from the department.

Davison said she would use her remaining time in parliament to champion the cause of "better justice and support for one-punch assault victims and their families".

Davison's father was killed by a single punch during an attack in a pub in Sheffield when she was 13.

Jacob Young, the Redcar MP, has been announced as Davison's replacement.



Dehenna Davison cited health issues in her resignation letter

SAMSUNG

Twice as nice



OFFER ENDS
28TH SEPT

Buy the Galaxy Z Flip5 and claim a Chromebook Go worth £299

Available on O2

#JoinTheFlipSide

Purchase a Galaxy Z Flip5 by 28/09/2023 from a participating retailer. Claim by visiting: samsungoffers.claims/perfectpartners within 30 days of purchase. UK/ROI. 18+ only. For full T&C's, see samsungoffers.claims/perfectpartners

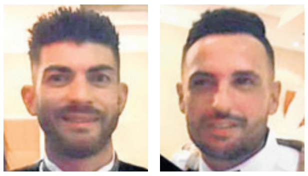
Showjumpers stole £50,000 of tack from fellow riders

Poppy Koronka

A former Horse of the Year Show winner and his partner have been labelled "greedy" after they stole more than £50,000 worth of riding tack from riders who were competing across the country.

Kieran Quinn, 36, and Jamie Aston, 32, stole stirrups, saddles, riding boots and other items as the owners waited to compete in international competitions.

In one incident the showjumpers hired a car and drove hundreds of miles to break into lockers in the stables while their targets were asleep, travelling home with the items on the same morning. On Friday Quinn and Aston, both from Blaengwynfi in south Wales, pleaded guilty at Manchester crown court to the theft of equipment from an event at Bolesworth, Cheshire, and fencing materials taken from other events. They were caught after victims spotted the men offering quantities of horse tack for sale on social media.


Kieran Quinn and Jamie Aston tried to sell the stolen items on social media

Police were alerted and raided the men's home. More than 20 items of riding kit were recovered from their house, car and a tack room at a nearby farm used by Aston.

Officers then found that the men were using mobile phones in the vicinity of the events on the days of the thefts.

Aston was handed an 18-month sentence, suspended for two years, and 120 hours of unpaid work, and Quinn was sentenced to 14 months in prison, suspended for 18 months, and 100 hours of unpaid work.

They admitted to stealing items worth a total of £51,009, and also to "fencing" stolen items. Both face a proceeds-of-crime hearing over the thefts, which took place last year.

Natassia Purnell, who lost a dressage saddle, a show saddle, stirrups and boots worth £7,567 while attending one event with her son, said in a statement that she had to put one of her two horses up for sale as a result of the crime spree.

"When I found out that my tack had been taken, I was devastated," she said. "My son was unable to ride in his class and I missed my class, and the entire weekend which we had spent months preparing for was ruined. I lost out on attending the British Eventing Championships, and may never get the opportunity to compete at this again, all because of this incident.

"It may seem like something small to some people, however, the loss of my tack and saddles has been heartbreaking. All the years of work I now feel like they have been wasted. I have not competed in the 2023 season due to the anxiety of being at shows.

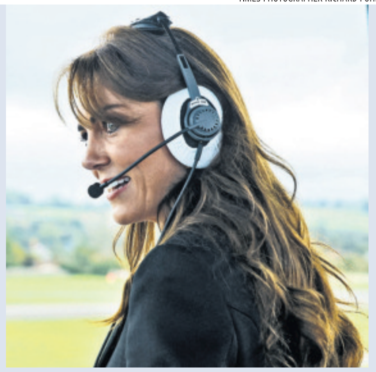
"Anyone who has horses and who competes knows how hard it is, and this makes the fact that these people have committed this crime against one of their own even more disgusting. They have ruined people's dreams through their own greed."

In mitigation, Quinn and Aston were said to be "genuinely remorseful".

In sentencing them, Judge Eric Lamb said: "You are each experienced in the equestrian world and these were mean-spirited offences. What you did has had an impact on the friendly community of those involved in the horse world."

TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER RICHARD POHLE





The Princess of Wales tested a life jacket — and was surprised by how rapidly it inflated — during a trip to the Royal Navy Air Station in Yeovilton, Somerset. Her husband also put on a life jacket on a visit to an oyster project in New York



Princess caught out by rapid inflation

There might, said the technician helping the Princess of Wales with her emergency life jacket during a trip to a Royal Navy air base, be "a bit of a bang" (Valentine Low writes).

She wasn't wrong. But even with that warning the princess erupted into a fit of giggles when her life jacket inflated more rapidly than expected.

In her first visit as the commodore-in-chief of the Fleet Air Arm, the princess was being shown round Royal Naval Air Station Yeovilton in Somerset, one of the busiest military airfields in the UK. In the hangar she was shown a range of survival kit including helmets and flotation rafts, and given a demonstration on how to fold and pack a life jacket into its outer shell.

As she put it around her neck and prepared to inflate it, the princess looked nervous. Then, as she yanked on the toggle, the jacket inflated and flew out of its shell to reveal the huge bright orange flotation aid.

Appearing surprised, the princess burst into giggles as staff let some air out of it to give her some space before helping her to remove it.

Louise Evans-Hughes, 32, a survival equipment technician, said: "I told the princess there might be a bit of a bang because sometimes when the Velcro rips open there is a bit of a noise. I think that was why she was a bit apprehensive to pull it. As soon as she pulled it, it inflated."

Asked about Kate's reaction, she said: "I see it a lot when we train the air crew pilots. I knew what was going to happen and it was quite nice to watch her face."

The Prince of Wales, meanwhile, also wore a life jacket on a trip to New York, where he visited the Billion Oyster Project. The project aims to clean up the city's harbour by putting a billion oysters in the water by 2035 to act as natural filters.

Today William will announce the 15 finalists in this year's Earthshot Prize, for companies and projects focusing on climate solutions.

9 months
FREE



Full Fibre Broadband

when you take Sky TV & Netflix for £26pm

From £60.50 a month from month 10. Prices may change.
18-month min term. Selected areas. New customers only.

Sky.com

New customers only. Requires Sky Stream and Broadband (min. speed 25Mbps). Connects to TV via HDMI. Selected fibre areas only. Sky Broadband Superfast 80 provisioned on the fastest sky fibre technology available in your area. Not available without mobile signal at home or reliant on landline. Available on separate 18-month contracts for Sky Broadband Superfast 80 (£0pm till month 10, £34.50 thereafter), Sky Pay as you Talk (£0pm) and Sky Ultimate TV (£26pm). Set-up fee: £0 (usually £39.95). Non-standard set up may cost extra. Standard prices apply after 18 months (currently £39.50 for Sky Broadband Superfast 80 and £29 for Sky Stream). Prices may change. Sky Broadband Superfast 80: 61Mbps (download) and 16Mbps (upload). Subject to status. Kit loaned at no extra cost. UK only. 18+. Terms apply. Ends 28/09/2023.




TUDOR
#BORN TODARE
What is it that drives someone to greatness? To take on the unknown, venture into the unseen and dare all? This is the spirit that gave birth to TUDOR. This is the spirit embodied by every TUDOR Watch. Some are born to follow. Others are born to dare.
41 millimetre case in 316L stainless steel
Integrated "five-link" bracelet in 316L stainless steel
Swiss self-winding mechanical Calibre T603 with chronometer performance
Five-year transferable guarantee with no registration or periodic maintenance checks required
TUDOR ROYAL
WINSOR BISHOP
39-43 LONDON STREET, NORWICH NR2 1HU
ENQUIRIES@WINSORBISHOP.CO.UK
WINSORBISHOP.COM

Wintour's choice to step into Vogue editor's shoes

Harriet Walker Fashion Editor

Typically during London Fashion Week all eyes are on the clothes but this year the attention turned to who would take the helm of British Vogue.

After months of speculation on who would replace Edward Enninful, Condé Nast has announced that Chioma Nnadi will take over later this year.

As reported in The Times last week, the 44-year-old British journalist will start in October as "head of editorial content" before Enninful, the incumbent editor, steps back in January. She has most recently been in charge of US Vogue's website and has been a "global network lead" across the brand's many international editions.

"Chioma is beloved among her colleagues and is an editor and writer with an impeccable reputation," Anna Wintour, 73, editor-in-chief of US Vogue and Condé Nast's global editorial director, said in a statement released on the final day of London Fashion Week.

Nnadi, a state-educated Londoner of Nigerian and Swiss-German descent, has worked in New York with Wintour since 2010. She began her career on the features desk at the London Evening Standard, which was once edited by Wintour's father, Charles, then moved to the US to work at The Fader, a music magazine. "I'm beyond excited and honoured," Nnadi said. "It feels like a moment to look beyond borders and celebrate the broad scope of what it means to be British."

Her appointment to one of fashion's most visible and most mythologised roles will silence industry murmurings around Wintour's supposed retirement plans. Though Enninful, 51, is to remain an editorial adviser for Vogue on a freelance basis, he will not now — as he is thought to have expected — ascend to Wintour's corner office in Manhattan.

The pair seemed friendly last week when they appeared on the red carpet and greeted guests at the lavish Vogue World fundraiser in London, but relations are said to be less cordial in private.

"I'm so grateful to Edward for all he has accomplished at British Vogue," Wintour's statement added. "I can't think of a more worthy person to follow in his footsteps."

Since his arrival in 2017, Enninful has increased the visibility of ethnic minority models and diversity more broadly in Vogue's pages. Yet this month's issue was seen as controversial for having photoshopped the faces of the fiftysomething supermodels on its cover.



Chioma Nnadi is state-educated and considered "normal"

Though her boss's tabloid nickname is "Nuclear" Wintour, Nnadi, who is more often spotted in trainers than in traditional fashion editor heels, is referred to among fashion insiders with the industry's highest compliment: "normal". One fashion insider said: "Chioma is the nicest person I've ever dealt with at Vogue."

Burberry goes punk with zips in park

Anna Murphy
FASHION DIRECTOR



London Fashion Week came to a close yesterday with its biggest name, Burberry. The brand summoned up suitably big-top energy by showing in Highbury Fields, a north London park, under a plaid-patterned multi-peaked awning that looked akin to a giant picnic blanket.

This was the second outing for Daniel Lee, 37, the British designer.

How to make clothes and accessories that seem special but that also look cool, "street" even, rather than try-hard? It's not an easy circle to square. What's more, it's been a long time since it conjured up that ultimate money spinner for a brand, a must-have handbag.

The spring/summer line-up was a continuation of where he left off last season, taking classical touchstones such as the trench coat, the scarf print and plaid, and giving them a new, at times almost punk-ish edge. Because, let's not forget, Britain didn't only give the world the trench coat. It also conjured up punk.

Which is why Lee's version of the kind of scarf print that would once have been wrapped around a Sloane ranger's head came covered in chains and a depiction of the knuckleduster-adjacent "knight clasp" found on many of his bags. Zips slashed through dresses and accessories alike.

That signature camel trench was given a 1960s-ish shape and retooled with a chain half-belt at the back.

Lee's aesthetic takes the rough with the smooth, in other words.

Daniel Lee's designs featured clasps and chain images. Zips slashed through dresses and accessories too



● Commuters and tourists were left confused after the London Tube station Bond Street had its signs changed to Burberry Street in a marketing stunt with Transport for London. Maddie Dunne said on Twitter/X: "I thought I'd lost my mind." TfL said that guidance was given to commuters and not every sign changed.



News

Remote working puts probation in jeopardy

Matt Dathan Home Affairs Editor

Remote working and major staffing shortages in the Probation Service have been blamed for a lack of supervision of criminals released from prison.

The probation watchdog said that "blended" working arrangements, which allow staff to work from home twice a week, had led to staff squeezing their face-to-face appointments with offenders into their "office" days.

Justin Russell, the chief inspector of probation, said that work-from-home practices had limited and "pressurised" the time spent assessing an individual's risk of reoffending. As a result, face-to-face appointments had become little more than welfare check-ins, he added.

It also meant that the opportunities to discuss cases with colleagues were much reduced, he wrote in his annual report. Some probation delivery units had lost staff when normal operating models resumed, Russell found. He called for probation officers to return to working in the office full-time to halt an alarming decline in performances.

In his report, published today, he warned that criminals released from prison were posing a greater risk to the public because the Probation Service's ability to assess and manage their risk of serious harm had become even worse than under Chris Grayling's botched semi-privatisation of the service. Probation services were renationalised two years ago, seven years after the part-privatisation.

The report found there was a failure to correctly assess an offender's risk to the public from the moment they entered court. Staff were failing to complete basic domestic abuse checks with police and safeguarding checks with children's services, while a lack of home visits was also leaving the Probation Service blind to potential risks.

Inspections of all 31 probation delivery units in England and Wales found that they had failed to carry out inquiries into an offender's domestic abuse history with the police in 51 per cent of cases where they had been required. Safeguarding checks with local children's services were not completed in 48 per cent of cases. Home visits were not undertaken in 58 per cent of cases.

Russell said the lack of accurate assessments of offenders' risk of harm to the public could lead to a repeat of the serious failures that led to Jordan McSweeney and Damien Bendall committing murder on probation.

McSweeney was wrongly assessed as "medium risk", with probation staff failing to take account of his long history of misogynistic and racially aggravated incidents. He went on to murder Zara Aleena nine days after his release from prison last year.

Similar failings were found in the case of Bendall, who murdered his pregnant partner, her children and their friend in Derbyshire in September 2021 after being released on licence. A report by Russell found that the Probation Service had placed a curfew on him at the address of his partner, despite receiving allegations of domestic abuse from previous partners.

Russell explained that the Probation Service had moved to a model in which the "expectation" was for staff to work three days a week in the office, with those days used to carry out face-to-face appointments, and two days working from home to write up assessments.

Russell said: "That [working arrangement] does restrict the opportunities, particularly for new staff, to interact with more experienced colleagues in the office and to learn from them by working alongside them. And that's following on from the fact they were having to do all of their training online."

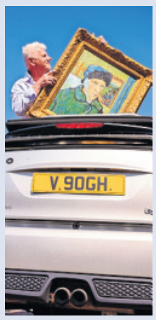
Urging the Probation Service to reinstate office working as a default, Russell said: "I personally would like to see staff going into the office more days, and I think they would benefit from doing that. It might be an interesting piece of work for the Probation Service itself to do — to see if there's a correlation between staff time in the office and the quality of work that gets done. That's certainly a correlation I'd encourage them to look at."

The Probation Service said: "We have made major progress in addressing the concerns raised in this report, with the most recent data showing improved performance in key areas such as the proportions of ex-offenders in settled accommodation and attending specialist programmes to change their behaviour."



IN THE TIMES TOMORROW

FASHION
How to wear white in autumn
PULLOUT

ARTS

At home with the world's greatest art forger
PULLOUT

BUSINESS
DAVID SMITH
At last, some better news on productivity
MAIN PAPER

COMMENT
ROGER BOYES
Will enlarging the UN make the world safer?
MAIN PAPER



Bragg laments 27-1 thrashing by Lineker in pay league

Jack Malvern, Ben Dowell

Gary Lineker's salary of up to £1.35 million is excessive and opens the BBC up to attack, Melvyn Bragg has said.

The presenter of *In Our Time* on Radio 4, speaking before the programme's 1,000th episode on Thursday, said that Lineker was paid "27 times more than I am" for presenting a television show that has roughly the same audience as his own radio broadcast.

Match of the Day attracts between 2 million and 2.6 million viewers on a Saturday night, a similar number to the weekly audience for *In Our Time*, which is also the BBC's most downloaded weekly podcast.

"I get about the same audience as Gary Lineker," Bragg said in an interview with Times2. "Yeah, about the same number. It's worth thinking about. And the effort and energy that's put into [our show]."

Bragg, who was made a life peer in 1998, said that he admired Lineker but questioned whether licence fee payers were getting value for money. "It would be great if he was paid what I was paid. That would be fine. Which is perfectly all right. He's good, he's very good… talks very well, knows the game inside out, nothing wrong with that. And I'm not using this to get at him. I just think this is an example of the way the BBC is in a fix.

"Because that is, in my view, going to be one of the next points of attack. Look, you're paying all this money to these people, and not very many people are watching, really. And is that what you stand for? And I think it's an attack waiting to happen."

Bragg also questioned whether news presenters were overpaid. "I mean, some of the payments of people reading Autocues for the news. It's just ridiculous. And you think, really?"

Sophie Raworth, who anchors the *News at Six* and *News at Ten*, as well as presenting other BBC programmes, is paid between £365,000 and £369,999, while Huw Edwards, who is suspended pending the outcome of an internal investigation into his conduct, was paid between £435,000 and £439,000 for anchoring the *News at Six* and *News at Ten* as well as presenting news specials.

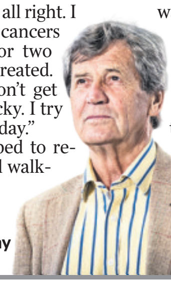
Bragg said the BBC's defence that it must pay market rates to prevent its stars from defecting was flawed. "Well, they are the market. So it's a circular argument," he said.

The broadcaster, who will turn 84 next month, also spoke about his recent poor health. "I've had a very, very, very bad two and a half years, at one stage critical. And I haven't talked about it. I'm talking to you about it. But there have been some serious moments — really, really critical moments. And we seem to have got through them all."

Bragg has previously mentioned "a couple of cancers", a collapsed lung, viral pneumonia and a hip replacement. "I don't think I'll ever get back to what it was. I mean, I've lost over two stones for instance. It's all right. I mean, I'm fine. The cancers have retreated. One or two things are still being treated. One or two things won't get better. But I'm very lucky. I try to go for a walk every day."

He said that he hoped to resume some modest fell walking near his home in Cumbria "in a year or two" if his recovery continued. As for his work at the BBC, he said was grateful to have a job that he found so rewarding. "Almost from the day I joined the BBC, I just thought, 'They're paying me for doing this?' It is such a blessing. I really like this job. I don't like it a little bit. I really like it."

His 1,000th edition of *In Our Time*, to be broadcast on Radio 4 just after 9am on September 21, will tackle Ingmar Bergman's masterpiece *The Seventh Seal*.



Melvyn Bragg's radio show has an audience to rival Match of the Day

Why BBC pay is a problem, Times2

TMS

diary@thetimes.co.uk | @timesdiary

Tricky Dicky's pop at Reagan

Jonathan Aitken, biographer of Richard Nixon, gave the annual memorial lecture last week at the former president's library in California. Nixon was not noted for a sense of humour but Aitken recalled a rare joke from him the day after he and Ronald Reagan had both spoken at a banquet at Claridge's in 1992. Aitken told his subject over breakfast of his surprise that while Nixon had given a 45-minute address without notes, Reagan's brief introductory remarks needed a flunky holding up large prompts. They then saw Reagan leaving to speak at the Oxford Union, followed coincidentally by porters carrying a number of large rectangles wrapped in paper, which Aitken assumed were someone's purchases from an art gallery. A wolfish smile crept over Nixon's face. "Gee," he said, "those must be Reagan's cue cards for Oxford."

Liz Truss's Big Speech yesterday, in which the Lady Jane Grey of Tory leaders diagnosed Britain's ills and explained how to fix them, got short shrift from Rishi Sunak's spokesman when asked if he had watched. "No," he said. "He was being prime minister." Ouch.

NAKED ADULATION

Anxious speakers are sometimes advised to calm their nerves by imagining their audience naked, but what about when they are? The comedian Angela Barnes tells Reader's Digest that she recently spoke at a naturist festival where she was the only person in clothes. At one point two women peeled themselves from their seats to go to the loo. "Don't too many of you do that at once or I'll think I'm getting a round of applause," said Barnes, below. "I got a standing ovation," she added. "I don't think I'll ever unsee it."



BOLSHIE BARBARA CASTLE

Michael Cockerell has tackled many difficult politicians in his long television career but only one sought to renegotiate their fee mid-interview. Ahead of BBC4 showing his 1995 film on Barbara Castle last night, Cockerell recalled the former Labour health secretary stopped filming and told him: "I am on such good form today and you are asking about many more subjects than I thought you would, so I refuse to say another word unless you agree to double my fee." Not for nothing was she called the Red Queen. Cockerell could only admire her brass neck. "We needed her in the programme," he said, "so gave in."

To go with the serious allegations against Russell Brand, he was also a ludicrous popinjay. Before a recording of Question Time *some years ago, Brand demanded that his assistant brush and pluck his chest hair until he was satisfied with what would be on display. "I didn't know whether to laugh or throw up," a witness told me.*

BBC PARTY POOPERS

To mark its centenary, Radio Times has asked media types to pick their favourite programmes. Paddy O'Connell nominated *After Dark*, the 1980s Channel 4 late-night show in which a group of people discussed whatever they wanted with no set end time and lots of wine. "We tried to recreate it on Radio 5 Live in 1994," O'Connell said. "We had two hours from midnight to 2am and allowed the guests to drink and smoke." The gimmick ended after protests from the *Today* programme, whose studio they used. "Their presenters complained it smelt like a brewery," he said.

PATRICK KIDD



*To get the advertised monthly price you must enter into a Device Plan (credit agreement) for 36 months with a monthly payment of £26 per month to finance the device, and a 24 month unlimited data Airtime Plan which is £20 per month plus annual price rises. **Each April the Airtime Plan monthly charge will increase by up to December's CPI rate + 3.9%.** Airtime Plan monthly charge includes £5 discount for paying by a recurring method such as direct debit. £168 saving (£7pm) on 24m airtime plan vs standard price of UNL at £27pm. Offer price £20pm has end date of 26/10/2023 . Credit is provided by Hutchison 3G UK Limited at 0% APR for the duration of the credit agreement, Credit is subject to status and a credit check and for 18+ only. If you miss a payment, you may be reported to a Credit Reference Agency, and you may find it more difficult or more expensive to obtain credit in the future. Hutchison 3G UK Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority for Consumer Credit, registered office: 450 Long water Avenue, Reading, Berkshire, RG2 6GF. Terms apply. Purchase an iPhone 15 between 15/09/23 and 03/11/23 and trade in any device currently listed by Three UK by 17/11/23 to claim an additional payment of £180 on top of the standard trade in value of your device. Use new device serial number as promotional code to claim additional payment. To achieve the Maximum saving of up to £950 you will need to trade-in an original iPhone 14 Pro Max 1TB. Maximum £950 save consists of iPhone 14 Pro Residual Guaranteed Value of £602 plus iPhone Enhanced Trade in Value of £180 plus £168 saving (£7pm) on 24 month Airtime Plan. Three Recycle is powered by Three's device recycling partner, Ingram-Micro. See three.co.uk/recycle.



RootMetrics®
UK RootMetrics® Report H1 2023

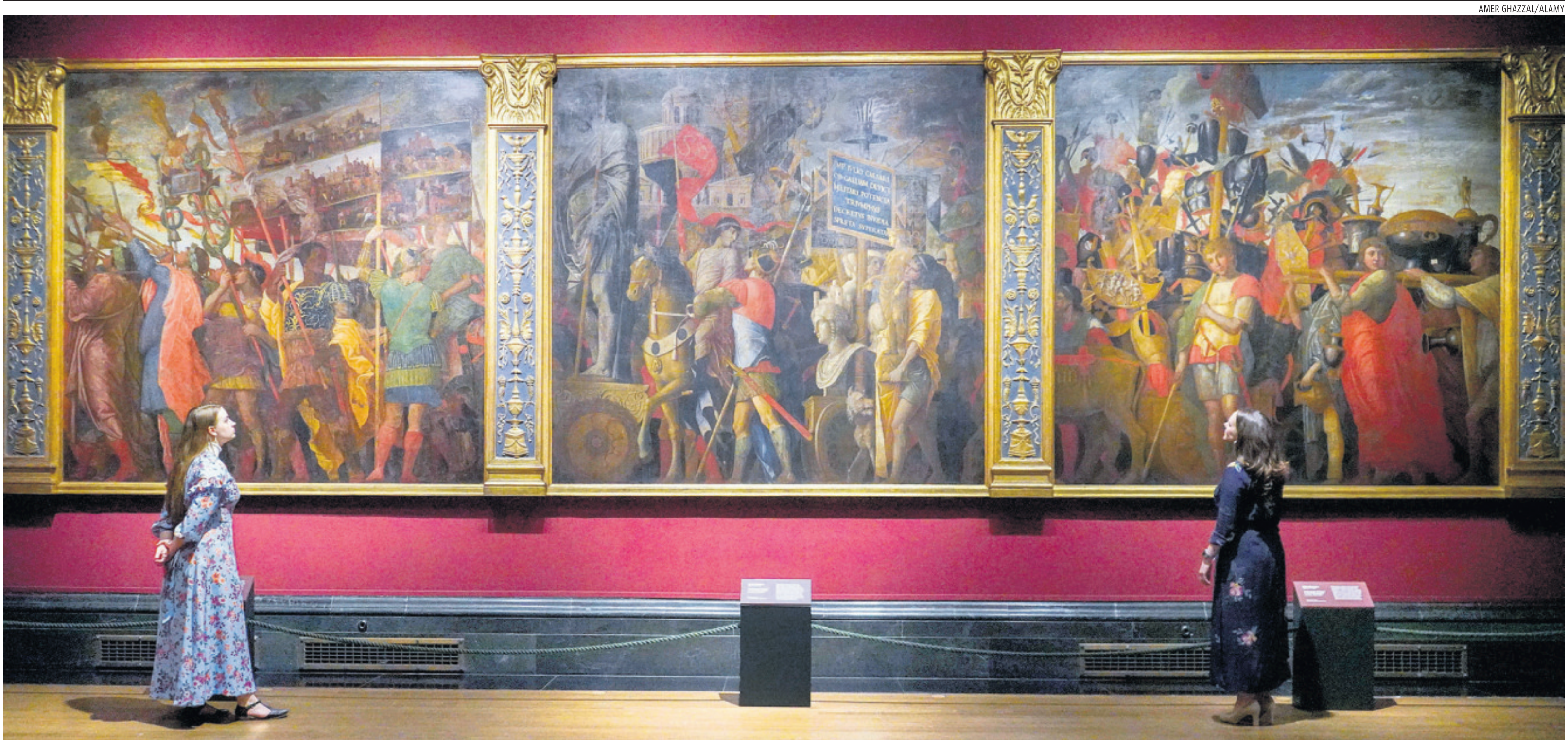
Best for network performance.
Lowest monthly price: Flex Pay 36 month loan vs 24 month loan. Flex Pay is a consumer credit product to finance your device: if you do not keep up to date with payments, your credit file and future borrowing may be impacted. Only take out credit if you believe it is affordable for you to do so. Finance subject to status and credit checks. Credit provided by EE Limited, One Braham, Braham Street, London, E1 8EP. EE Limited is



authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority for the provision of consumer credit. **Full Works for iPhone:** includes access to Apple One Individual subscription. Content is variable and may be withdrawn at any time. UK use only. Apple One terms apply. **UK'S BEST NETWORK 10 YEARS IN A ROW:** Rankings based on the RootMetrics® UK RootScore® Report: From H2 2013 to H1 2023. Tested with best commercially available smartphones on 4 national mobile networks across all available network types. Your experiences may vary. The RootMetrics award is not an endorsement of EE. Visit **ee.co.uk/claims** for more details.

News

AMER GHAZZAL/ALAMY



They came, they saw The National Gallery is providing a temporary home to six of The Triumphs of Caesar, the celebrated series of paintings by the Italian Renaissance artist Andrea Mantegna, while their dedicated gallery at Hampton Court Palace undergoes lengthy maintenance work. Painted between 1485 and 1506, the series has been in the royal collection since 1629, when it was bought by Charles I

Channel migrants targeted by conmen

Matt Dathan Home Affairs Editor
Isaac Crowson

Migrants attempting to cross the Channel in small boats are being targeted by fraudsters who promise cheap journeys but take their cash and vanish.

A new wave of criminals have been operating in the migrant camps in Calais and Dunkirk with the aim of ripping off those desperate to make the journey.

Tens of thousands of pounds have been handed over by migrants paying up front, who never hear again from the person they were in contact with.

The French authorities are clamping down on the deception despite facing criticism over the small proportion of boats they prevent leaving for Britain.

Evidence of how migrants have been targeted by the scams emerged in a court case this month and from disclosures by police in Calais. A Sudanese man was jailed for six months for deceiving three men from Guinea in west Africa.

Having met the migrants in a camp in Calais, he told them that he could get them across the Channel but they would have to pay in advance.

The migrants handed over €900 but did not hear from him for four days and on August 24, when they asked for their cash back, he refused.

French police were called and arrested the man at his partner's home in Calais. Officers found €1,300 and several pieces of identification.

The Sudanese man was taken to court, where he admitted taking the money but claimed he had given it to a smuggler and wanted to reimburse all three.

He told the court that it was the first time he had acted as an intermediary for people smugglers but phone evidence analysed by detectives showed that he had done the same before.

A Calais police source said: "This man was a repeat offender and someone who had been conning migrants for several weeks. This is a growing problem. The migrants are desperate to cross and in crime whenever there is desperation there are people wanting to exploit that.

"Small boat crossings are just the same. Tens of thousands of pounds are being handed over to people with no intention of helping them with the journeys."

The courts sentenced the Sudanese fraudster to 12 months in prison, six months of which was suspended. The €900 was returned to the three victims.

A Border Force source said: "The French should be focused on prosecuting smugglers and cracking down on stopping the crossings rather than crooks conning those wanting to travel.

"In drug crime you would focus on bringing down the drug dealers and not on those ripping off drug users by not supplying the goods but taking the money."

Hundreds more migrants crossed the Channel in small boats at the weekend, taking the total so far this year to nearly 24,000. With 499 people arriving over the three days from Friday to Sunday, the monthly tally for September has risen to 3,895 in 71 boats.

A boat carrying 56 migrants arrived on Sunday, despite warnings of a thunderstorm. The weekend arrivals take the number who have come so far this year to 23,996 in 509 boats.

However, the number of migrants to have crossed this year is 19 per cent lower than by this time last year, when 27,755 had made the journey.

The proportion of migrants who have been prevented from crossing the Channel this year is roughly the same — 45 per cent — as last year, despite Britain having paid £480 million to increase the number of French police officers patrolling the beaches of northern France.



Device Plan	Device	Duration of Credit Agreement	Monthly	Credit Amount	Upfront Cost	Total / Cash Price	Representative APR	Airtime Plan 8GB + 2 Xtra Benefits	Duration	Monthly
	Samsung Galaxy S23 Ultra	36 months	£27	£972	£49	£1,021	0%		24 months	£11pm

*Each April, the monthly price shown plus out of bundle charges will increase by that year's January CPI rate + 3.9%. Device Plans will not be affected: vodafone.co.uk/CPI. 25GB roam fair use & terms apply: vodafone.co.uk/terms. Vodafone EVO: Device Plan Credit Agreement with an Airtime Plan. You can pay off your Device Plan early, and if you do, keep your Airtime Plan on a 30-day contract or leave. £504 saving on an airtime and device plan: £288 airtime saving (was £23pm, now £11pm = £12 x 24 months); £216 device saving (device cost was £1,188 now £972 = £6pm x 36 months). Google Lens is a trademark of Google LLC. Finance subject to status and credit checks. 18+. Direct debit required. Credit provided by Vodafone Limited, FCA Number: 712210, Vodafone House, The Connection, Newbury, RG14 2FN.

Tesco sells Brazilian meat it had banned

Adam Vaughan Environment Editor

Tesco has been found selling Brazilian meat despite promising to ban it over deforestation fears, leading to accusations it has been "greenwashing".

The supermarket has positioned itself as a leader on reforming supply chains to end links to the destruction of the Amazon, which is driven by cattle ranching in Brazil. In 2020 Tesco said it would no longer sell any Brazilian beef, chicken or pork.

However, campaigners have discovered Brazilian chicken on the shelves.

They have referred the supermarket to the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA), asking the watchdog to investigate whether the company had made misleading claims to consumers and broken a Green Claims Code.

Products being sourced from Brazil in contravention of the ban include Bridge Valley chicken tikka pieces. Tesco's website clearly states the origin of the chicken as Brazil and Thailand.

Gemma Hoskins, Mighty Earth's UK director, said: "How can customers have any confidence in Tesco's claims that it's a 'climate leader' when its shelves are still stocked with products that are driving the destruction of nature in the Amazon and its neighbour, the Cerrado.

"We urge the CMA to take a close look at what Tesco says it's doing and what it is actually doing, which in reality appears to be nothing more than greenwashing."

Tesco made its commitment on Brazilian meat after widespread fires in the Amazon in 2019, which loggers use to clear land for farming in the world's greatest rainforest. Deforestation soared under President Bolsonaro, but there are indications it is already slowing under his successor, President Lula da Silva.

The CMA has also been asked to investigate other chicken products sold by Tesco. Trade data by Panjiva, a shipping tracking firm, examined by Hoskins, shows that one of the supermarket's suppliers imported hundreds of tonnes of Brazilian chicken in 2021 and last year to the UK for use in ready meals. It is not known whether they ended up in Tesco products.

The supermarket says on its website that "we are working towards zero deforestation" in supply chains. The company also boasted that it had become the first UK retailer to stop sourcing from Brazil due to concerns about deforestation. "We don't sell any beef from Brazil," its website says.

The Times reported earlier this year that chicken sold in Tesco had been traced to deforestation in the Amazon.

Tesco said: "The chicken product outlined is from a small, branded supplier and should not have been listed in our stores. We take our commitments extremely seriously, and apologise for this case of genuine error."

LUCY NORTH/PA



Activists want Labour to cancel new North Sea oil and gas licences granted by the Conservatives

Eco protest leaves black mark on Labour HQ

Extinction Rebellion activists poured fake oil over the steps of the Labour headquarters to demand that the party commit to cancelling new fossil fuel licences.

Two activists also climbed onto the portico of the building in Southwark, south London, and set off smoke grenades. Another chained himself to a handrail. It followed an XR protest in Parliament Square at the weekend involving an effigy of Sir Keir Starmer dressed as Margaret Thatcher.

Labour has made a commitment to not granting new fossil fuel licences, but activists want it to cancel any awarded by the Conservative government before the next election, should the party win power. The government has said it will issue more than 100 new licences for oil and gas exploration in the North Sea. It is understood that Starmer would not block licensed drilling should he be the next prime minister because it would open the government to legal challenges.



News

Father killed on 'coasteering' adventure with teenage sons

Constance Kampfner

A father died in front of his two teenage sons while taking part in an organised adventure sport trip in Dorset, an inquest was told.

Iain Farrell, 49, from Dorney, Buckinghamshire, was pulled unconscious from the sea while taking part in coasteering, which involves making your way along a rocky coastline by climbing, jumping and swimming.

The activity was run by the outdoor adventure company Land & Wave at Hedbury Quarry, near Swanage, in May 2019. The nine participants, including Farrell's sons, Sean, 15, and Oliver, 13, were equipped with wetsuits, buoyancy aids and helmets.

The inquest in Bournemouth was told that Farrell was not a strong swimmer but thought coasteering was a "safe and suitable adventure".

Brendan Allen, the coroner, said that Charles Ridley, a freelance guide, carried out a "dynamic risk assessment" of each member of the group by asking them to jump into the water and swim 10 metres.

However, when Farrell fell behind, Ridley swam with him before deciding that he could not continue. The jury was told that he was unable to climb out of the water despite being thrown a rope to hold.

The coroner said: "Iain fell face-first into the water. Mr Ridley dived in and began chest compressions because Iain was unresponsive."

The remainder of the group alerted some nearby climbers who called the emergency services. The coastguard, RNLI, ambulance and police attended, and Farrell was winched onto the quarry floor where resuscitation efforts continued in vain, Allen said. He was pronounced dead at the scene. Farrell, an electrician who worked as a control support engineer at Heathrow airport, had separated from his wife, Amanda, in 2017 after 26 years together, the inquest was told.

In a statement read out in court, she paid tribute to a "kind, caring and loving man".

Amanda said that her sons had suffered "upset, anger, frustration, a lack of trust and more" following his death. "They are not the same two boys any more," she added.

Matthew Farrell said that his brother had been suffering with the relationship breakdown and had been looking for ways to "educate and inspire his boys".

He said that his older brother was "strong, fit and healthy" but "did not have a reliable swimming technique" and would need to rest after one or two lengths in a pool.

He added: "Coasteering appeared to be a safe and suitable adventure for him to undertake with his boys with acceptable risk."

The term "coasteering" was coined in the 1970s in the book *Sea Cliff Climbing*, an exploration of cliff climbing from Land's End to Orkney.

Questions about the safety of the sport were last raised following the death of Charlotte Furness-Smith, a former Royal Navy reservist, while coasteering in Dorset in 2013.

David Mutton, a former director of Land & Wave, told the hearing that the company was accredited by the Adventure Activities Licensing Authority, which carried out annual inspections of the firm.

He said that Ridley was certified as a guide by the company's external adviser, although no national qualification existed at the time.

The inquest continues.

TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER JAMES GLOSSOP



Brush up Christian, an Old English sheepdog, gets ready for the Darlington dog show at Ripon Racecourse, North Yorkshire

Paedophile youth football coach dies in jail

George Sandeman

A former youth football coach who was jailed for abusing numerous boys at various clubs has died in prison aged 69.

Barry Bennell had been incarcerated at HMP Littlehey, near Huntingdon in Cambridgeshire, where he was serving a 34-year sentence for 50 sexual offences against 22 boys.

HM Prison Service said that Bennell died at the jail, which holds only convicted male sex offenders, on Saturday. The BBC reported that Bennell had been treated for cancer for a "number of years" and underwent operations to remove tumours from his tongue in 2004 and 2016.

A spokesman said: "As with all deaths in custody, the prisons and probation ombudsman will investigate."

During his career Bennell worked for clubs including Crewe Alexandra, Manchester City and Stoke City.

He was first convicted in 1994 after he was found to have abused a 13-year-old British boy at a football camp in Florida.

He was sentenced to more prison terms after further convictions in 1998, 2015, 2018 and 2020.

Judge Clement Goldstone described him as the "devil incarnate" after handing him the 34-year sentence in 2018.

After Bennell's convictions more than 80 other alleged victims came forward to report abuse by him. Campaigners say that Bennell is believed to have raped or assaulted at least 155 boys in his care.

T BOOKS

A celebration of the quirky, the humorous and the brief

Relish in the best letters to *The Times*, covering the issues that really matter – from umbrella protocol at the Coronation to growing cress in lunar soil.

timesbookshop.co.uk



EXTRA
10% OFF
TIMES+ members only
mytimesplus.co.uk

THE TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES
Know your times

It used to be a laugh… except for the victims
Hugo Rifkind
Page 25

Comment

Prepare for Trump or dictators will call the shots

America's allies need to act now to deepen security ties in case the former president returns to the White House

William Hague



For me, the most striking political fact of recent weeks came from a study, published in Science, of the stories most viewed by Americans on social media. It found that the top item from the 2020 presidential election, viewed an extraordinary 113 million times on Facebook, was about nine ballots found in a trash can in Pennsylvania.

While that was true, the story was spun in ways that were misleading: that the votes were all for Donald Trump, which they were not, and that it was proof of rigging by the Democrats, whereas it turned out to be an error by a contractor that was spotted by officials.

Without ever seeing this story presented in a balanced way, tens of millions of people probably found confirmation in it for their views — that Trump is the victim of a conspiracy and that whatever he did, the other side is at least as bad. It is a lesson in the damage done in the outraged chambers of social media, particularly by stories that straddle the boundary between fake and true. But it also makes it easier for us to understand why Trump could again become president of the US, after the next election only 13 months away.

For British people, it is unthinkable that anyone indicted in relation to fraud, conspiracy, taking classified documents, paying hush money and attempting to overturn a legitimate election could ever be a serious candidate again. But to Americans — living in two separate worlds of their own newsfeeds, bitterly divided by race, wokeness, abortion and many other issues, using a system of primary elections in which name recognition is a huge advantage — it has become thinkable. Indeed, it is on the verge of becoming probable.

The time has come to prepare for Trump. Surely not, I can hear you exclaim. We will know on November 5, 2024, or soon after, if Trump is back in the White House. Can't we just wait and hope for the best? I'm afraid not, if you are in a government or a major company, for three reasons.

The first is obvious: this is a 50/50 chance of a very disruptive event. In his first term, Trump was a bull in a china shop, but his handlers often restrained him. But this time, the bull will choose its own handlers for their subservience and knows where all the most expensive china is hidden. Far more of the fragile crockery of American institutions and the western alliance would end up in

> Can't we wait until the election and hope for the best? I'm afraid not

fragments on the floor.

Would he appoint spineless placemen to the FBI, the Justice Department and the vice-presidency? Yes. Would he stop financial or military aid to Ukraine? Possibly. Or resume his naive fondness for dictators? Presumably. Or disengage from Nato? We can't know, but senior advisers from his previous term believe he probably would. Would he reverse America's climate policies? Definitely. A selection of these items alone would add up to the biggest geopolitical upheaval since the end of the Cold War.

The second reason is that Trump gives voice to a trend in the Republican Party that will outlive him, and eventually come to power. One rival, Ron DeSantis, has referred to the Ukraine war as a "territorial dispute", showing a lack of understanding of the difference between good and evil that would have Ronald Reagan turning in his grave. There is a radical isolationism growing on the American right that western allies should discourage but also need to anticipate.

A third and more urgent reason is that others are preparing now for Trump, and they have to be countered. For Putin, it means he can play for time in a long war, hoping that the western unity that has so surprised him will fall apart. His trolls and bots can spread the message to Europeans that they will be betrayed and send new waves of social media posts to encourage Americans to hate their own compatriots more than ever.

Seen from Beijing, all that is needed for military coercion and political persuasion to isolate Taiwan decisively is one period, however brief, of uncertainty and erratic signals from the White House. Autocrats the world over will now be preparing their strategies with Trump in mind, and in some cases helping to get him into power.

So, what can we do to prepare? While there will never be a substitute for the power of the US, and we should avoid any action that separates us from America, a list of preparations might include: stepping up by several gears the western blocking of divisive social media material designed to weaken democracy; increasing still further the military and budgetary support for Ukraine from the UK and Europe; credible plans from all Nato countries, including France and

SPLASHNEWS.COM



Trump might stop financial or military aid to Ukraine and withdraw from Nato

Germany, to spend 2 per cent of GDP on defence; a coherent western strategy for stability across north Africa, involving the US but able to function without it; closer defence technology ties with South Korea and Japan; improved foreign policy co-operation between the UK and the EU; carbon border taxes ready for launch if the US abandons its net zero commitments; agreement of reforms of the World Bank to help developing countries; and still greater urgency behind efforts to agree international norms, with US commitment, on the governance and control of artificial intelligence.

Almost all of those policies are needed anyway. But if dictators are preparing for Trump by playing it long and sowing discord, free nations need to speed up and reinforce their unity, as well as fortify their resilience in the event of shocks. While we must persuade Americans that they need us, we also have to show them we can do more for ourselves. The rest is up to them, and in particular for them to spare the world the trauma and chaos of a second Trump term.

It is an irony that Joe Biden, who was key to unseating Trump in 2020, can probably best help by standing aside in 2024. For all his faults —

> Free nations have to fortify their resilience in the event of shocks

expensive subsidies, a debacle in Afghanistan, an excess of caution on arming Ukraine — he has reinvigorated the western alliance and restored faith in American institutions. But US voters overwhelmingly say in surveys that they are concerned about his age and do not want a Trump-Biden rematch. There are still enough Americans who are not living in a world of conspiracies touted on Facebook for good leaders to emerge. But they need a choice of fresh leadership from talented state governors on both sides.

Failing that, the return of Trump has become a serious possibility. It is not a distant problem, because it is already having an effect. It is not a one-off issue, because it represents a trend. We cannot leave it just to the bad guys to prepare for it.

RED BOX
For the best analysis and commentary on the political landscape
thetimes.co.uk/redbox







Buy one of our stunning coastal lodges and experience the difference
An exclusive collection of coastal lodges in West Wales and Cornwall that combine the luxuries of hotel living with the freedom of being yours.
0808 258 9243

Prices From £345,000
Subletting options available. Up to 8% yield.

Comment

Giving children the vote is cynical and wrong

Labour plan to enfranchise 16-year-olds is political opportunism and an attack on childhood

Melanie Phillips



@MELANIELATEST

If the Labour Party comes to power at the next general election, Britain's government could in future be decided by schoolboys and girls who haven't yet sat their GCSEs.

A report by the party's National Policy Forum says Labour will reduce the voting age at general elections from 18 to 16. The move would enfranchise about 1.5 million teenagers. The vast majority of young people have left-wing views. Reducing the voting age is a blatant manoeuvre to gerrymander the result of a general election to bring about a Labour victory.

One Labour MP, Graham Stringer, has broken ranks to protest that at 16 most youngsters aren't mature enough to vote. The policy, he said, smacked of party self-interest.

Labour claim that the move is a natural development from the fact that at 16, many young people are paying taxes, working "and engaging in all parts of society". This is deeply disingenuous. Young people in England may be in apprenticeships or training, or part-time work and training, but they must continue with that or full-time education until they're 18. Both the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Children Act 1989 define someone under the age of 18 as a child.

There's now a veritable patchwork of ages of maturity. They depend on the riskiness or level of responsibility involved in the relevant behaviour, along with culturally specific assumptions that also change over time. The age of criminal responsibility in the UK is ten, except for Scotland where it is 12. The age of sexual consent is 16, when you can also buy a pet. You can join the armed forces at 16, but need parental consent until 18.

A driver's licence for a car can be obtained at 17, although many believe this should be raised, since young people generally engage disproportionately in dangerous or reckless behaviour. As the RAC Foundation has pointed out, although only 1.5 per cent of licensed drivers are aged between 17 and 19, these are responsible for nearly 12 per cent of those hurt or killed in road traffic accidents.

> At 16 most young people have limited experience of the world

Mostly, however, the legal age of maturity is held to be 18. You must be over 18 to buy alcohol, cigarettes, knives, fireworks, air weapons, National Lottery tickets, solvents or sunbeds. Below 18, you can't generally enter into a contract, sell an item at a pawnshop or place a bet in a betting shop.

In February this year, the legal age for marriage was raised from 16 to 18. Although the aim was specifically to protect ethnic-minority girls from forced marriage, the government referred to marriage under 16 as "child marriage", while the Ministry of Justice said: "The age of 18 is widely recognised as the age at which one becomes an adult and gains full citizenship rights."

Of course, people mature at different ages. Some children are wise and responsible beyond their years at 14; other people are infantile into their thirties and beyond. However, at 16 most young people have limited experience of the world and a corresponding political immaturity. This often results in an attraction to simplistic policies that offer idealism with scant regard for any practical consequences.

Young people are increasingly becoming among the most left-wing generations in history. The politics professor Matt Goodwin says that polls reveal only 8 per cent of 18 to 24-year-olds are planning to vote Tory next year, while nine in ten plan to vote for Labour, the Lib Dems, SNP or Greens.

This is part of a more alarming trend. Researchers at Cambridge University found that among UK millennials who turned 30 during the past decade, under half felt satisfied with democracy on reaching that birthday.

Labour says reducing the voting age move would restore participation and faith in the democratic system. However, young people are turning against democracy not because they don't have political power to affect it but because they think *no one* should have democratic power. They see nothing wrong with communism and are attracted to strong leaders.

In a survey of 30 countries published earlier this month by the Open Society Foundations, more than a third of young people felt a "strong leader" who didn't hold elections or consult parliament was "a good way to run a country". Some 42 per cent of them said they were supportive of military rule, against just 20 per cent of older respondents.

These are frightening trends. In 2015 and 2019, the Scottish parliament and Welsh Assembly lowered the voting age in Scotland and Wales to 16 for devolved and local elections. Their ability to do this seemed to signal a certain contempt for these left-wing administrations by the Westminster parliament, which clearly considered them too unimportant for their infantile electorates to pose any risk.

While children have increasingly become politically useful to cynical politicians, lowering the voting age also reflects an increasing contempt for childhood. The distinction between childhood and adulthood has been remorselessly eroded to serve adult interests. Children are targeted by exploitative advertisers who view them as key drivers of economic consumption. Many parents fail to set boundaries for their children in order to free themselves from onerous and self-denying adult responsibilities.

Labour's aim is not only opportunistic, but reveals an indifference to the proper status of children which should sound a loud and additional alarm.

Giles Coren Notebook

Want to be a rebel? Try driving at the speed limit

With the news that "almost half the British population" is now living under a 20mph speed limit, it is safe to say that we have hit the midpoint in the war on the car: not quite the beginning of the end but, perhaps, the end of the beginning.

My dad would have said that the war began with seatbelts and speed limits, MOT tests and parking meters. Since those heinous innovations, drivers have gone on to be battered with breath tests, cycle lanes, speed cameras, congestion zones, Ulez and the planned actual banning of motor cars (as my father understood the term) from 2030.

But that 20mph limit is the most murderous innovation of all. The H-bomb of vehicular warfare. For 20mph makes us slower than cyclists, it makes us late for things, it makes us feel bored and slow and, above all, not very cool. But I've got nine points on my licence now (six of them for speeds that an old man in Lycra could do up a steepish hill) and have no option but to set the cruise control to 20mph and leave it there for the next three years. You may cite the 10 per cent tolerance reportedly applied in these matters, but I can't risk a misunderstanding. So it's 20mph flat, even when the limit is 30mph, because it could change at any time, and usually does.

And I've started to love it. You know why? Because it drives people mad. Every morning, I drop my son at school in my little electric BMW and then head to the office round the wide, empty Outer Circle of Regent's Park at a funereal 20 on the nose, and within minutes there is a line of angry cars behind me, honking and gesticulating. As the cyclists whizz past me on both sides and the taxis press up against my bumper, waving their fists, I sometimes slow to 19 or even 18mph just to see them howl and whine and, finally, overtake me, shaking their heads, and get pulled over by the motorbike rozzers hiding on Cumberland Terrace.



I do it on dual carriageways at 50mph and on motorways, in the fast lane, at 70mph. I have become the guy cruising at 69mph, getting flashed to hell by angry drivers behind me, saying in the rear-view, "I'm only doing the speed limit, dear" until they overtake me on the inside, raging and punching and risking death. I am, in short, so much more dangerous, unpopular and, above all, amused, driving at the speed limit than I ever was when I used to break it, that I only wish I'd known about it before.

Sardine roulette

Three Brits in Bordeaux for the Rugby World Cup have narrowly avoided death from botulism in a wine bar after failing to observe Coren's First Rule of Restaurants, which states, very clearly: "Never have the sardines." It's there in many past reviews and even in a book I wrote. To be fair, the rule has also been published as "never order the sardines" and these guys didn't. They left it to the proprietor to choose their dishes and "one of the things he picked for us was the sardines — they were served cold in a Kilner jar filled with oil".

Sorry *retch*, cold in a jar of oil? And you ate them? Did you even stop to think why he had given them to you? Sorry, no legal case to answer. Massive contributory negligence. The sea's oily fish — mackerel, sardines, red mullet — are great straight off the boat and grilled on the beach. But within an hour their atomic nuclei are decaying like copernicium-285. The radioactive half-life of a sardine is the blink of a lazy eye. It's why sensible people (ie Brits) only eat them tinned. Next week: mussels, learning the hard way.

Simply topping

I went into an excellent pizza place called Grain in St David's, Pembrokeshire, the other day for the first time since I reviewed it for The Times in the summer of 2022. Above the bar was a beautifully carved wooden sign bearing the legend, "Not remotely revolting — Giles Coren." So you see, if you set the bar low enough, people will be flattered by almost anything.

THUNDERER

Now is the time to include Taiwan in the United Nations

Kelly Wu-chiao Hsieh

The world's democracies have rallied to resist Russia's onslaught on Ukraine. Today they have a chance to help Taiwan too.

My country is a beacon of democracy in Asia, known for its free and open economy, including a thriving semiconductor industry that supplies over 90 per cent of the world's most advanced chips. We are fully behind the United Nations' sustainable development goals (SDGs) and strongly support other multilateral initiatives on pandemics and climate change. But Taiwan cannot participate in the UN system because of communist China.

UN General Assembly Resolution 2758, passed in 1971, addresses only the issue of China's representation in the United Nations. But the Beijing authorities distort and misinterpret it to exclude Taiwan. In truth, the resolution neither designates Taiwan as part of the People's Republic of China (PRC), nor grants the PRC the authority to represent Taiwan's people within the UN.

The Chinese Communist Party has never ruled Taiwan but it persistently asserts its territorial claim over Taiwan and threatens to use force against us. We witness regular air and naval incursions across the Taiwan Strait, plus disruptive grey-zone aggression: disinformation campaigns, cyberattacks and economic coercion. The aim is to cause social unrest and erode our will to resist.

It's not just Taiwan. China uses the same tactics elsewhere, in the East and South China Seas and with its aggression and expansionist ambitions across the world. The lesson from Ukraine is that it is better for the democracies to act promptly, not belatedly.

As the General Assembly starts its concluding debate today, under the motto "rebuilding trust and reigniting global solidarity", we urge the UN to practise what it preaches and grant Taiwan participation within its system. It is crucial to maintain solidarity as the war in Ukraine persists, and as we continue to work towards achieving the SDGs and finding solutions to global issues.

Enabling Taiwan's meaningful participation within the UN system would give immediate practical weight to the UN's resolute commitment to securing global peace and tackling pressing international challenges through strengthened unity. Moreover, showing the world's dictatorships that we take our values seriously will deter them from adventurism and promote international security.

Taiwan is willing and able to help in the global challenges we face. Include Taiwan in the UN and let us show what we can do.

Kelly Wu-chiao Hsieh is Taiwan's representative to the UK



Buy prints or signed copies of Times cartoons from our Print Gallery at timescartoons.co.uk or call 020 7711 7826

It used to be a laugh … except for the victims

The Russell Brand allegations date from an era when laddish misogyny was applauded — it's startling how recent that was

Hugo Rifkind



@HUGORIFKIND

Among the many stories that emerged about Russell Brand this weekend, all of which he denies, I'm sure you'll have seen the one about the 16-year-old, dubbed Alice. He assaulted her, she said, forcing his penis down her throat because he wanted "to see your mascara run". She remembered, also, her taxi driver pulling up outside Brand's house and begging her not to go in. "Please," he said. "You could be my little girl."

He's a rare hero in this story, that taxi driver. At the time, Brand was 30. Given that he turned 48 a couple of months ago, I make it 2005, maybe 2006. How much, I found myself wondering, would this taxi driver have known about him? So I looked back. Plenty.

Already, "Russell Brand Does Sex" was a tabloid staple. "He got me naked and pounded on top of me like a rabid dog," a woman from an Abba tribute act told the Sunday People, for example, apparently quite cheerfully. One day he'd be planning to bed Paris Hilton ("Would I bonk her brains out? Yes"), another he'd be bragging about a one-night stand with a *Big Brother* contestant.

Generally, it was all a giggle. "HAVE you bonked Russell Brand this week?" asked the Sun, "Call us on …" This, after the News of the World had reported that "RANDY Russell Brand is coming to the Edinburgh Festival with women on his mind", noting that "The BB host has asked for a flat across the road from the theatre where he'll star, to save time getting groupies into bed. Let's hope the bedroom action lasts longer than the walk!"

Soon afterwards, Edinburgh police got involved after a woman claimed to have been drugged and raped in the flat in question. Charges would eventually be filed against Brand's flatmate then dropped, and Brand himself would go on to win damages from the Daily Star for implying it had been all about him. In the interim, though, he had a good laugh about it while accepting a GQ Award. "I never did a sex attack," he declared. "At the time I was having consensual sex with witnesses — consensual mind — and a lovely evening it turned out to be." The room chortled. While somewhere else, perhaps, some forever nameless woman tried to pull her shattered life back together.

> The scale of the social change since the 2000s can be hard to take in

If it seems strange today that the same man could have gone on to be fêted by Ed Miliband and Jeremy Paxman before guest-editing the New Statesman, then I suppose that's a testament to how different the early 2000s were. Some stuff — and I say this having been a celebrity gossip diarist at the time — was just very easy not to care about. Although I don't mean "stuff", do I? I mean people.

There's a temptation to understand the Brand story only through the prism of #MeToo; the male impunity of another age. This, I think, misses the scale of the social change since then, which is a change that is hard to understand because it is still unfolding. Put aside his celebrity flings, and the odd kiss and tell. Brand claims to have slept with thousands of women; sometimes several a day. Yet the reporting was almost always only about him. As if the experiences of his partners, whoever they were, were never the point.

Back then, lots of things weren't the point. With any sort of public voice, in fact, you had ultimate power over what the point was. Whether on stage or in print, you didn't really have to worry about the people you had joked about, or even just opined about, rearing up and making a fuss about it afterwards. There was no social media at their disposal; no news but the news that made the news. Perhaps you remember that gruesome line in *Succession*, when Logan tells Kendall to forget about the boy he let drown in a crashed car. "No real person involved," he shrugs. That's how it was. No consequences.

> Lives have been ruined over swirling innuendo with far less basis

One depressing feature of the past few days has been the number of public voices springing to Brand's defence. Many are active in a particular newish fringe of media — the ecosystem of GB News and so on — which is beloved by similar conspiracy theorists to those who now flock to Brand's own YouTube channel. So I suppose there's a degree of pure grift there.

I wonder, though, whether it's also something to do with this new world of consequences. For them, perhaps, Brand is an avatar of what happens when you fall foul of this thing that we now call "cancel culture". Why, they wonder, can't the world be as simple as it once was? When a joke was just a joke, and a grope was a sporting chance, and a shagger was a tabloid hero?

Over the past year, several times, the comedian Katherine Ryan has remarked that the world of comedy was harbouring a "predator". Most assumed she meant Brand. The line between "predator" and "abuser" is fuzzy. One thinks of Kevin Spacey, acquitted in Southwark crown court on charges of being the latter, yet doomed to be remembered as the former, regardless. As a headline in the Los Angeles Times put it, "Kevin Spacey may have been acquitted. That doesn't mean he should be uncancelled."

I can see why some find this new world to be cruel and unforgiving. Often it is. Reports about Brand seem meticulous, but lives can and have been ruined over swirling innuendo with far less basis, or none at all.

Think back, though, to when Brand was banging away. Was that time, do you think, less cruel? When it was all a laugh. When, long before there were Twitter mobs, and petitions, and a whole new economy of outrage, the only person who seemed to care at all was a taxi driver. Peering over his shoulder at a girl who could have been his daughter. Fresh out of school, and doing her make-up in the back of his cab.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor should be sent to
letters@thetimes.co.uk or by post to
1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF

20mph speed limit

Sir, It is easy to criticise the 20mph speed limits that have come into force in Wales and elsewhere as a source of needless delay and frustration ("Life in the Slow Lane", leading article, and "20mph limits for almost half the British population", news, Sep 18). However, as a former HGV and bus driver I would also point out that they may also save time. Trying to pull out in a slow-moving lorry or bus from a side junction or bus lay-by can entail a lot of waiting, even with a 30mph speed limit. Slower-moving traffic makes such a manoeuvre far easier. Moreover, slower-moving traffic uses much less road space per vehicle. Pedestrians find it easier to cross the road and cyclists know that drivers have more time to make considered judgments about overtaking them.

In short, on many roads a lower speed limit can lead to a much more efficient use of road space for all users and we should not belittle attempts to distribute these benefits fairly.
Jeremy White
Buxton, Derbyshire

Sir, Given the intensity of the debate about the new 20mph speed limit in Wales I am surprised that no one appears to have mentioned fuel efficiency. Petrol-driven cars are not designed to run in top gear at 20mph, drivers will need to select a lower gear and will use more fuel doing so, which equates to more pollution. I cannot believe that anyone would want that.
Anthony Banton
Southwick, W Sussex

REVEL IN THIS ELEGANT BOOK SHOWING TIMES READERS AT THEIR MOST WHIMSICAL AND DROLL



To order a copy for £8.99 go to timesbookshop.co.uk or call 020 3176 2935. Free UK standard P&P on online orders over £25. Special discount available for Times+ members. timesbookshop.co.uk

Corrections and clarifications

● We wrongly said that Mohammad Hussain Ataee, a former official with the Islamic Students Association of Britain, talked with Ezzatollah Zarghami, a general in Iran's revolutionary guard (news, Aug 5). No such meeting took place.

IPSO Regulated. *The Times* takes complaints about editorial content seriously. We are committed to abiding by the Independent Press Standards Organisation ("IPSO") rules and regulations and the Editors' Code of Practice that IPSO enforces. Requests for corrections or clarifications should be sent to feedback@thetimes.co.uk

Arguments for and against assisted dying law

Sir, You report that 632 Britons have died in suicide clinics in Switzerland and that up to 650 dying people end their own lives every year in the UK (thetimes.co.uk, Sep 15). But is the situation in Switzerland any better? Since 1998, a staggering 12,747 Swiss citizens have died by assisted suicide. Recently published research has found that, over the same period, cancer was mentioned as a factor in 3.8 per cent of "conventional suicides" in Switzerland. This contrasts with data from the Office of National Statistics which found that, in 2019 in England and Wales, 1 per cent of deaths caused by suicide mentioned cancer as a factor. Furthermore, in Switzerland the percentage of cancer-associated suicides has remained stable over 20 years (between 3.6 per cent and 4 per cent), despite the number of assisted suicides doubling every five years.

There is no evidence from anywhere in the world that changing the law on assisted suicide helps to prevent unassisted suicide among dying people. It simply leads to more self-initiated deaths.
Professor David Albert Jones
Director, Anscombe Bioethics Centre, Oxford and professor of bioethics, St Mary's University, Twickenham

Sir, The arguments in favour of legalising assisted suicide are powerful, especially when backed by stories of individual suffering, such as those related by Janice Turner ("Why I changed my mind about assisted dying", Sep 16). However, for many of us who have worked in hospital medicine, there are other stories that need to be heard too. Such as that of the elderly woman who thanked me, weeks later, for ignoring her desperate pleas to end her life, and the HIV-Aids patients who were terminally ill with all kinds of horrible tumours and infections in the 1980s and 1990s. For many of the latter, the arrival of protease inhibitors, powerful antiretroviral drugs, changed their prognosis overnight from imminently terminal to chronic and from hopeless to hopeful. The point is, as Turner herself illustrates, people can change their minds and for all sorts of reasons. But it's hard to change your mind when you're dead.
The Rev Dr James K Torrens
Inverness

Sir, As Janice Turner indicates, the disparity between the dignity we show animals who are dying and the lack of it for some humans who are in the same situation is palpable. I watched my own mother die a lingering horrible death from a muscle-wasting disease. When she had been well enough to articulate her feelings she pleaded with her closest family not to let her suffer. Instead, there was not an ounce of dignity in the way she died and her last year was very painful for all of us to experience. There must be more discussion about — and a commitment to — changing the law.
Juliet Barnett
Enfield, Middx

Sir, Janice Turner writes that the experience of her mother's death, where a doctor said that because she was on an opioid she could not be prescribed a sedative, led her to change her views to support legalisation for assisted dying. This distressing case highlights that education and training in palliative care can be grossly inadequate. There is no clinical guidance that says dying patients should not receive an opioid and sedative together, if the combination is clinically indicated, and with skilled titration. As a palliative care doctor I have prescribed this combination many times. Arguments around legalisation for assisted dying obscure the more pressing concern: that high-quality palliative care must be available to everyone who needs it. Sadly, in Janice Turner's mother's case, it appears that it was not.
Katherine Sleeman
Laing Galazka professor of palliative care, King's College London

Sir, Janice Turner has hit the nail on the head. I am in my late eighties, a widow living alone with enough money to pay for a modest amount of help in the home but unable to get out and about without assistance. Most of my contemporaries have died or are in poor health, and although I do have visitors the main problem is loneliness. At the moment my brain seems to be in relatively good order but that may change. I would like to have the choice about when and where I die, preferably in my own home with someone to hold my hand and without pain. Is this too much to ask?
Frances Austen
Dukinfield, Greater Manchester

Joint doctors' strike

Sir, In your leading article ("Uncaring Profession", Sep 18) you state that doctors are unworthy of public respect because they are striking. But the reason they are striking and abandoning their professional obligations is because the NHS has driven them to feel undervalued and disrespected. It is not all about the pay but the conditions are so poor that they feel that, as they are not respected and valued at work, they have little to lose by striking. No food at night when on call; car parking charges at night when they are called in; non-stop staff shortages; and public demand constantly increasing. Why would you stay if you could leave, double your salary and obtain better working conditions outside the NHS? The NHS is a monopoly employer and until it is radically restructured this scenario will recur.
Gordon Manson-Bahr
Ret'd GP, Tharston, Norfolk

Computer says No

Sir, I share Don Grocott's frustration with facial recognition software (letter, Sep 18). My bank's system rarely works before the fourth or fifth attempt, if then. It fails completely in artificial light, and after a certain number of failed attempts it de-registers your phone, making it necessary to start again as a new customer. And, in a Kafkaesque twist, you can only opt out of the facility by going through facial recognition first.
David Williams
Great Waltham, Essex

'Ulez rejects' head for a road near you

Sir, Yesterday my husband drove from London to Manchester so that he could trade in his old car for a newer, Ulez-compliant model. I hope that future evaluations of Ulez incorporate the impact of non-compliant cars on the local areas of their new owners. If they really do cause an environmental problem, are we not just shifting it somewhere else?
Dr Nicky Connor
Pinner, Middx

Letters to the Editor must be exclusive to The Times and may be edited. Please include a full address and daytime telephone number.

PRISON FOR UNLICENSED DRIVER

FROM THE TIMES SEPTEMBER 19, 1923

At Marylebone Police Court Robert Thomas, 21, merchant dealer and motor engineer of Shepherd's Bush, appeared on remand charged with having been drunk while in charge of a motor-car, driving dangerously, resisting a police-constable in the execution of his duty, and driving without a license. At the previous hearing Police-Constable Fish gave evidence that in attempting to arrest the prisoner he got on the car and was driven for a distance of over five miles, riding on the bonnet, the prisoner all the time trying to get him off. The car was stopped by another car, which went in pursuit. Medical evidence was given that the prisoner was not drunk, but was suffering from the effects of alcohol, and was quite unfit to drive a motor-car. John Henry William Crane, of St John's Church, Wembley, gave evidence of the pursuit and said that his own car was slightly damaged in stopping the prisoner's. The prisoner denied that he was drunk, saying he had only had one drink. Referring to the moment when he drove off, he said he was going in search of his brother, who had gone for some petrol, when the constable sprang upon the bonnet of the car and called upon him to stop, drew his truncheon, and tried to get into the car. He brushed the constable aside and he got back on to the bonnet. He alleged that on the way to the police station an officer struck him twice on the head with a truncheon. He denied that he was going at any time faster than 18 miles an hour. Evidence having been given that the accused was not drunk, the Magistrate said he would not convict on that charge, but he should add a charge of assaulting the policeman. The constable, recalled, denied striking the accused with his truncheon. The Magistrate described the prisoner's conduct as outrageous, and fined him £20, with the alternative of two months' imprisonment for dangerous driving; fined him £10, or two months' imprisonment, and ordered him to pay 15 guineas costs, for driving without a license; and sentenced him to one month in the second division for assaulting the policeman, the sentences to be consecutive. He also suspended the prisoner's license for two years, remarking that in view of the state of his health and his temperament, he thought him unfit to drive.

THETIMES.CO.UK/ARCHIVE

Electric avenue

Sir, David Palmer (letter, Sep 18) advocates switching to hydrogen rather than electric cars. The adjacent letter from David Dunstan reveals why this is not a solution, as it points out that the amount of electricity needed for electric cars might be a problem. Moreover, for a given trip green hydrogen would need vastly more energy in electrolytic production and vehicle use. Hydrogen is not a transport solution. But the reason Professor Dunstan has not seen any government evidence to show diesel cars are greener than electric ones is because there isn't any such evidence. What is really needed is onshore wind farms to solve the generating shortfall, and an electric vehicle charging network comparable to that of the petrol network. One manufacturer has provided such a network for its cars. Others should follow suit.
Professor emeritus Peter Gardiner
Ringmer, E Sussex

Deleting women

Sir, Last week you reported on the sexual harassment of female surgeons, and health leaders expressed "dismay and disgust" (news & letter, Sep 14). This week you report that the GMC has deleted the words "women" and "mothers" from its forms in favour of "people" (news, Sep 18). Is it any wonder that women are badly treated across the NHS, and society in general, when standard-setting institutions are trying to make us irrelevant?
Susan Hill
Consultant surgeon, Bonvilston, Vale of Glamorgan

Self-erasing lists

Sir, Much more satisfying than Cary Labdon's list technique (letter, Sep 15) is to write lists in pencil, then erase the completed task, watching the list slowly disappear.
Mary Hoyle
Stamford, Lincs

Sir, When writing a list, the first item should be "Make a list". Thus, when finished, there is already one task to strike off. Immediate gratification.
David Reece
Brook, Kent

Gratuitous tipping

Sir, Martin Samuel's notebook ("Dick Turpin had nothing on this room service fee", Sep 15) reminds me of the time the bill arrived for our family meal in California. It itemised the cost of our food and drinks, the state tax, and a 19 per cent gratuity, leaving a similar blank space for a tip. I queried the difference between a gratuity already on the bill and a tip. "Oh, that's the computer," came the reply.
Rory Watson
Brussels

Lethal parrot

Sir, The letter about an elderly lady defying the ban on dogs in a shop by declaring her Jack Russell to be a handbag (Sep 16) reminded me of an incident at my Cambridge college in the 1960s. An undergraduate from a family with long ties to the college wished to keep a cockatoo in his rooms but college rules forbade the keeping of pets. The matter was resolved by classifying the bird as a firearm, which under the rules merely required the permission of the Senior Tutor.
Adrian Conrad
Croydon

Daily Universal Register

UK: MEPs from the European parliament's foreign affairs committee visit London for government meetings on "how to strengthen the overall EU-UK partnership".

Nature notes



Many of us are familiar with the tan-coloured marble galls that form on oak twigs, each home to tiny wasp larvae. Few realise that the large, twiggy bundles often seen on silver birches are another type of gall — this one formed by a fungus. These striking virescences are thought to be the product of *Taphrina betulina*, which causes lateral buds to produce haphazard side-shoots, over many years forming a large clump known as a witch's broom. The overall health of the tree is not generally affected, and the twiggy clump may act as a useful microhabitat so should be left in place. MELISSA HARRISON

Birthdays today



Jarvis Cocker, *pictured*, singer-songwriter, Pulp, *Common People* (1995), 60; **Kate Adie**, presenter, BBC Radio 4, *From Our Own Correspondent* (since 1998), chief news correspondent, BBC TV (1989-2003), 78; **Louise Botting**, broadcaster, *BBC Moneybox* (1977-92), one of the first female directors of a FTSE-100 company, 84; **Richard Burgon**, Labour MP for Leeds East, shadow lord chancellor and justice secretary (2016-20), 43; **Ray Cooper**, percussionist, 76; **Mark Drakeford**, first minister of Wales and leader of Welsh Labour, 69; **Reece Dunn**, swimmer, three-time Paralympic gold medallist (2020), 28; **Artur Ekert**, professor of quantum physics and cryptography, University of Oxford, 62; **Jimmy Fallon**, comedian and talk-show host, 49; **Rosemary Harris**, actress, *Spider-Man* (2002), 96; **Jeremy Irons**, actor, *The French Lieutenant's Woman* (1981), *The Mission* (1986), 75; **Alun Wyn Jones**, rugby union player, Wales (2006-2023, and former team captain), the world's most-capped rugby player (170), 38; **Joe Joyce**, boxer, Olympic silver medallist (2016), former WBO interim heavyweight champion, 38; **Dame Lesley (Twiggy) Lawson**, model and actress, *The Boy Friend* (1971), 74; **Kevin Lygo**, managing director (media and entertainment), ITV, 66; **David McCallum**, actor, *The Man from U.N.C.L.E.* (1964-68), 90; **Patrick Marber**, playwright, *Closer* (1997), 59; **Bill Medley**, singer-songwriter, the Righteous Brothers, *You've Lost That Lovin' Feelin* (1964), 83; **Freda Payne**, singer, *Band of Gold* (1970), and actress, 81; **Sally Potter**, film director *Orlando* (1992), and screenwriter, 74; **Prof Michael Proctor**, physicist, provost of King's College, Cambridge, 73; **Dame Zandra Rhodes**, fashion designer, chancellor, University for the Creative Arts (2010-18), 83; **Nile Rodgers**, musician, Chic, *Le Freak* (1978), 71; **David Seaman**, footballer, England (1988-2002) and Arsenal (1990-2003), 60; **Paul Webster**, film producer, *Atonement* (2007), 71; **Paul Williams**, composer and lyricist, the Carpenters' *We've Only Just Begun* (1970), 83.

On this day

In **1955** Juan Perón, president of Argentina, resigned and went into exile, returning after 18 years to be re-elected as president in 1973.

The last word

"Greed is a sin against God, just as all mortal sins, in as much as man condemns things eternal for the sake of temporal things."
Thomas Aquinas, Italian philosopher and priest, *Summa Theologica: Part II* (1274)

Continental Drift

Sir Keir Starmer's call for closer ties with the European Union raises more questions than answers. Labour must come clean on its real intentions for a future relationship

As Sir Keir Starmer restates his intentions to forge a new trading partnership between Britain and the European Union, Theresa May must be permitted a moment of rueful self-satisfaction. Seeking cross-party consensus on Brexit in May 2019, while prime minister, she invited the Labour Party for talks. Her aides found themselves obstructed by Sir Keir, then Brexit spokesman for Jeremy Corbyn. In one meeting Gavin Barwell, Mrs May's chief of staff, read aloud what the two sides had agreed. Sir Keir objected to the language on customs only to be told that he had written it himself.

Such is the irony of the Labour leader posing as Westminster's new patron saint of pragmatism on Europe. When Sir Keir denounces the agreement struck by Boris Johnson as "far too thin" and calls for a "closer trading relationship", as he told the Financial Times yesterday, he reaps the reward of his own past intransigence. Mrs May negotiated exactly the deal now demanded by the Labour leader: close alignment without membership of the single market and customs union. Sir Keir bears as much responsibility for its defeat as the most recalcitrant Tory Eurosceptic. Offered the choice between compromise in the national interest and obstructionism for short-term political gain he chose the latter.

That is the context Sir Keir would rather voters forget. The electoral logic at play is unforgiving. If he is to be Britain's next prime minister he must convince Brexiteer voters that he is a reformed character who fully accepts the result of the 2016 referendum. Hence his refusal, in rhetoric at least, to countenance a return to the single market or customs union. His conversion is born of necessity. But much of what he says is at least incidentally true.

No objective assessment of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement brokered by Mr Johnson would conclude that it could not be improved to Britain's benefit. Closer collaboration with Brussels in some sectors — and easy wins like rejoining the Erasmus student exchange programme — could ease unnecessary disruption and reopen opportunities forgone in recent years.

The problem for Sir Keir is that there is nothing novel about pragmatic and mutually beneficial co-operation with Europe. Indeed, it is precisely what Rishi Sunak has achieved: first by agreeing the Windsor Framework designed to resolve problems with Anglo-Irish cross-border trade and subsequently by rejoining the Horizon research programme. And the prime minister will soon announce a deal on co-operation between Britain and Frontex, the EU border agency. It is disingenuous to suggest that Mr Sunak is uninterested in constructive collaboration with Brussels.

But Sir Keir's tone suggests he would like to go further. He seems intent on using the review of the agreement, scheduled for 2025, to fundamentally reimagine its scope. In interviews last week he spoke of his regret that Britain had "turned its back on the world", saying that he owed his young children a closer relationship with Europe. Yet the apparent strictures of his present position limit his room for manoeuvre.

Successive prime ministers have learnt the hard way that the EU will not be sweet-talked out of its adherence to the single market and customs union. Unless Sir Keir is planning to reconsider his own red lines on membership of either, the EU is unlikely to give ground. In that case the 2025 review is likely to be little more than a formality.

To pretend otherwise means Sir Keir is one of two things: naive about the EU's capacity for compromise or disingenuous about his long-term intentions. If it is the former then his pronouncements on Europe are little more than posturing; if it is the latter, then he ought to level with voters who may not take kindly to his party relitigating a painful separation. Neither redounds to his credit.

Hostage Bazaar

Biden's payment to Iran for the release of US prisoners sets a dangerous precedent

Every innocent prisoner freed by a police state should be a cause for celebration. It is difficult, however, to avoid a sense of queasiness about the terms of the release from Iranian prisons of four American citizens and a British-Iranian conservationist. The price paid by the Biden administration is high — the unfreezing of $6 billion of Iranian assets — and there is no guarantee other than the word of a ransom-taking regime that the money will not end up in the pockets of Iran's many terrorist proxy groups. The American government has, in effect, incentivised the cash-strapped Islamic republic to continue investing in hostages.

Britain is no stranger to this dilemma. But the hefty outstanding arms bill that it settled with Tehran in return for the liberty of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe is not really comparable with the deal struck by the Biden team. The American asset freeze of oil funds held in South Korean accounts was part of a sanctions package aimed at blocking Iran's route to an atomic bomb. Iran is already close to producing such a nuclear weapon — and only recently expelled eight foreign inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Authority.

The fact is, Iran has played hostage diplomacy with the United States, the Great Satan, since it grabbed 52 US diplomats and kept them in the US embassy in Tehran for 444 days. Many blamed Jimmy Carter's election failure in 1980 on his mishandling of the crisis. In the 1980s Ronald Reagan secretly sold weapons to Iran to secure the release of Americans held prisoner in Lebanon by Iranian-bankrolled terrorists. Deals were also struck during the Obama and Trump administrations.

It is reasonable then to assume bad faith on the part of Tehran. The US has promised to monitor the use of the ransom and has assured western allies, including an increasingly nervous Israel, that it will go towards humanitarian relief of the Iranian people, not the government. This is naive. The Iranian president, Ebrahim Raisi, has already declared that the government will spend the money as it sees fit. More than that, he seems to be claiming bragging rights for having won some kind of victory over the United States. Perhaps he hopes that his bargaining skills will raise his popularity and help to banish memories of the cruel treatment of female hijab protesters. Certainly Mr Raisi, who touched down in New York yesterday for the United Nations general assembly, will hope to reap praise from delegates who share his anti-American sentiments.

The arrangement has set a price tag for future hostage-taking ventures. A Swedish diplomat, Johan Floderus, is lingering in prison after more than 300 days of solitary confinement. There are many others, waiting to be sold. Apart from the 66-year-old wildlife conservationist freed in the US deal there is a further British-Iranian in Evin prison, arrested by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard for using cameras to study rare animals.

The principle is clear and part of US law: no government can pay a terrorist group or a state sponsor of terrorism. Mr Biden has tried to sidestep this by arguing that he is dispensing confiscated Iranian assets, not taxpayer funds. Yet, however pleasing it is to see the wrongly imprisoned leaving their cells, there is no geopolitical logic to Mr Biden's move: it does not make the world safer, does not stop Iranian-manufactured kamikaze drones crashing down on Israel, Saudi Arabia or Ukraine. And it does not make the Iranian people freer.

Sir...

As a compilation of letters shows, Times readers are masters of the witty rejoinder

There is a place of honour on this newspaper's letters page that has existed since Geoffrey Woolley edited it in the 1950s. It is the "bottom right", home of the quirky or humorous pay-off.

Earning this coveted position requires the ability to distill a point of view or telling vignette into a brief, impactful letter. Brevity remains the soul of wit, as Shakespeare observed, and this is the essence of the bottom right. Examples can now be savoured en masse in *Sir, The Year in Letters*, compiled by Andrew Riley, present letters editor of The Times, published by Times Books.

Bottom rights are not meant to change the world; they do not linger over great events. Most are whimsical responses to lighter, minor stories. Their sole purpose is to elicit a smile.

Take a Times story on how Americans struggle when addressing in-laws. This initiated a fruitful thread: "Sir, Further to your report 'America's angst at addressing in-laws', when our American son-in-law joined our family he addressed me as 'Sir'. I asked him to call me Tim. I have since been elevated to 'Sir Tim'." The story also prompted a response from Rhidian Llewellyn of London: "Sir, On what to call one's in-laws, John Betjeman's father-in-law had the answer: 'You can't call me Sir Philip — that's too formal. You can't call me Philip — that's too familiar. You had better call me Field Marshal.' "

And on the perils of book signings: "Sir, Sadly, as an author I was never offered a book signing. I approached my nearest bookshop in Muswell Hill to ask if they'd be interested in hosting a launch, stressing that I was a local author. The manager wearily replied: 'Sir, everyone in north London is a local author.' "

More digestible than Sir Godfrey Lushington's 1898 dissection of the Dreyfus affair, published in its entirety. "Sir" was the first of 11,071 words.

World

American prisoners released by



Iran
Richard Spencer

Five American prisoners held for years by Tehran, including a joint British national, were released and flown out of the country last night in exchange for five Iranians held in the United States and the unfreezing of $6 billion of Iranian oil money.

The four men and one woman landed in the Gulf state of Qatar at 5.30pm. They included Morad Tahbaz, a businessman with British, American and Iranian passports whose family, led by his daughter Roxanne, have waged a long campaign for his freedom. They had pushed, in vain, for him to be included in the deal to free the British prisoners Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe and Anoosheh Ashoori last year.

Tahbaz was accompanied on the plane to Doha, the Qatari capital, by his wife, Vida, who had been trapped in Iran by a travel ban. "We are overjoyed and relieved to finally have Morad and Vida free and on their way back home after six years," the family said in a statement.

All five detainees were under house arrest, having been allowed out of prison after the exchange was agreed upon in the summer.

Iran said it had confirmed that the $6 billion, held in South Korea since 2018, had been transferred to a designated account at the central bank in Qatar, which has acted as a mediator, yesterday morning.

Five Iranian nationals held or arrested in the US, including for breaking sanctions on Iran, were released. Two who wished to return home also flew to Qatar, en route to Tehran.

President Biden welcomed the arrival of the US group in Qatar. "Five innocent Americans who were imprisoned in Iran are finally coming home," he said.

He attempted to ward off accusations that he was guilty of appeasement by paying "hostage money", announcing sanctions against figures in the Tehran regime for their role in hostage taking, including the former president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and the intelligence ministry as a whole.

In terms of the deal, the $6 billion will be used only for humanitarian purposes, but critics say that will be impossible to police.

The US has been negotiating the prisoners' release since it became clear that the 2015 nuclear deal, torn up by Donald Trump when he was president in 2018, would not be revived.

Rishi Sunak welcomed the exchange, with a spokesman saying he was "extremely pleased that Morad Tahbaz's terrible ordeal is finally over and that he will be reunited with his loved ones".

He added: "By seeking to use foreign nationals as bargaining chips, the regime's leaders are fatally undermining Iran's credibility on the world stage."

The Biden administration's keenness for a deal has been criticised by the US right and some former prisoners, who warned that other dual nationals may be arrested to be used as hostages in future. Biden's statement reminded US citizens that they were advised against travelling to Iran because of the risk of being seized.

The Tahbaz family statement thanked Biden for the "difficult but necessary decision to prioritise the lives of American citizens over politics".

Tahbaz, 67, is a wealthy businessman based in London who funded environmental projects in his native Iran. One of those projects used camera traps to monitor the endangered Asian leopard. The environmental experts who ran it, along with Tahbaz, were arrested and jailed for espionage in 2018 on the grounds that the traps were used to spy on Iran's nuclear sites.

Siamak Namazi, 51, an Iranian-American businessman, was arrested on a visit to the country in 2016 and jailed for ten years for "collusion with an enemy state".

Emad Shargi, 59, another Iranian-American businessman, was arrested in 2018 and jailed for espionage without having been notified that a trial had even taken place.

The fourth man and the woman involved in the prisoner swap have not been identified, at their own request.

The five Iranians released have been identified by media in Tehran as Reza Sarhangpour and Kambiz Attar Kashani, accused of violating US sanctions against Tehran; Mehrdad Moein Ansari and Amin Hasanzadeh, accused of having links to the Iranian security forces; and Kaveh Lotfolah Afrasiabi, who has been charged with being an Iranian government agent.

Two will return to Iran while two others have asked to remain in the US. The fifth will go to a third country.

The $6 billion was payment to Iran for oil sales to South Korea, which were frozen when US sanctions were reimposed by Trump, which in effect stopped banks across the world doing business with the country.

Westerners still in custody in Iran include Mehran Raoof, a trade union activist with a British passport arrested during labour rights protests in 2020.

Hostage payment sets a dangerous precedent, leading article, page 27

Critics fear deal will encourage hostage taking

Analysis

International deals such as that struck by the US and Iran to secure the release of ten people held prisoner by either side are supposed to end one chapter and start a fresh one, to secure a turn from hostility to friendship or at least positive engagement (Richard Spencer writes).

With Iran, that hope has proved futile in the past. Indeed, the circumstances of this deal show that. The 2015 nuclear deal was intended by President Obama not only to curtail the threat of an Iranian atom bomb but to be part of a rebalancing of the US relationship with Iran and the broader Middle East.

The nuclear deal was signed in July that year. Siamak Namazi, one of the five US citizens who is part of the latest deal, was arrested fewer than three months later.

The American right wing, much of which rejects any rapprochement with the Islamic republic on principle until it abandons its threats to Israel, believes Obama was conned in 2015. It believes that President Biden, then the vice-president, is being conned again.

That view is backed by parts of the Iranian exiled opposition and some former prisoners, such as the Chinese-American historian Xiyue Wang, who was held for more than three years from 2016. They say the present deal simply sets more Americans up to be seized.

Biden is nevertheless pressing

Mob sets mayor's house on fire as anger erupts over flooding

Libya
Tom Kington Derna

Survivors of the Derna flood torched the house of the city's mayor yesterday during a street protest over the loss of thousands of lives last week.

Two dams burst during a storm, sending a 7m-high wall of water through the city, destroying more than 800 buildings and washing thousands of people into the Mediterranean.

As the estimated death toll tops 11,000, with 30,000 residents now homeless, fury has been growing in the city over the poor maintenance of the dams in the past 20 years, which local politicians did little to remedy.

Residents demonstrated at the Sahaba mosque in the centre of the city yesterday before heading to the mayor's home, which was set on fire.

"The protesters believe the government is to blame for not mending the dams and that the government stole the money meant for that purpose," one onlooker told The Times.

A minister from the Benghazi-based administration running eastern Libya cut short a tour of city and left as the protest turned violent. Further demonstrations are expected today.

The mayor of Derna is a relative of Aguila Saleh, the Speaker of the Benghazi parliament, who was also targeted by demonstrators. "Aguila is the enemy of God," some chanted, while others called for "thieves and betrayers" to be hanged.

A statement read out by demonstrators called for "a speedy investigation and legal action against those responsible for the disaster". Others demanded that the reconstruction of the city be handed to international companies, amid accusations that funds to maintain the dams were siphoned off by local politicians.

Survivors have said they were told by the authorities to stay in their homes on the night of the flood, rather than evacuate — which cost thousands of lives. Elseddik Haftar, son of Khalifa Haftar, the warlord who dominates eastern Libya, insisted that his father's "wise leadership" had saved lives, and that his Libyan National Army had issued an order for all citizens to evacuate.

However, Jalel Harchaoui, a Libya specialist and associate fellow at the Royal United Services Institute, told The Times: "The order to evacuate was not clearly given. Haftar's son is not telling the truth."

Aid organisations have warned that the risk of cholera, diarrhoea and malnutrition is growing as clean water, food and medical supplies become scarce, despite a massive rescue effort mounted by international donors.

We'll help curb migrant arrivals in the Med, Macron assures Meloni
Page 31

Trump insists he will negotiate with Democrats on abortion
Page 32

Iran in $6bn swap

CONTRIBUTOR, KARIM JAAFAR/AFP/GETTY IMAGES





Siamak Namazi and Morad Tahbaz, left, are embraced after disembarking in Doha in a prisoner swap. They had been held under house arrest in Iran, having been let out of prison when the exchange was agreed in the summer

ahead. The release of $6 billion to Iran may attract claims that he is "buying" each American for more than $1 billion each, but he can fairly point out that the sum is small fry compared with the boost that the nuclear deal provided Tehran.

Biden has ended the war in Afghanistan — albeit on the most unfavourable terms — and is ferociously pursuing a normalisation agreement between Saudi Arabia and Israel that would be a sea change in the region, for good or ill.

Will the failings of the 2015 deal be repeated, with more hostage diplomacy to follow? In one sense, the critics are right: this deal is unlikely to lead to a change to what the West continues to see as Iran's destructive behaviour. There have been reports, denied with varying degrees of conviction, that the deal includes limits on the nuclear programme, though not as comprehensive as 2015's.

But there is no chance that the regime in Tehran will reduce its funding and arming of militant groups such as Hezbollah and Palestinian Islamic Jihad, or its support for the Assad regime. It will no doubt arrest more western nationals who venture on to Iranian soil for use as bargaining chips.

On the other hand, few will do so: potential visitors are warned. And with America's Gulf allies such as Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates pursuing their own detente with Tehran, there seems little point in Washington holding out. Biden clearly thinks that any deal is better than none.

Trudeau suspects India of killing activist

Keiran Southern Los Angeles

Justin Trudeau, the prime minister of Canada, has said there is "credible" evidence that the Indian government was involved in the assassination of a Sikh separatist in British Columbia.

Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a Canadian citizen and supporter of an independent Sikh homeland known as Khalistan, was shot in June near a temple in the city of Surrey.

Nijjar, 45, was wanted on terrorism charges in India, where the Khalistan movement is banned and considered a threat to national security.

Trudeau told the House of Commons in Ottawa yesterday he suspected that India was behind the killing, in an allegation that could provoke a diplomatic row. "Canadian security agencies have been actively pursuing credible allegations of a potential link between agents of the government of India and the killing of a Canadian citizen, Hardeep Singh Nijjar," Trudeau said.

"Any involvement of a foreign government in the killing of a Canadian citizen on Canadian soil is an unacceptable violation of our sovereignty. It is contrary to the fundamental rules by which free, open and democratic societies conduct themselves."

In addition, the government said it had expelled a senior Indian diplomat.

Trudeau said that he raised the shooting "personally and directly" with Narendra Modi, the Indian prime minister, last month.

A Khalistani separatist movement grew violent in Punjab the 1980s with thousands of people killed.

Hunter Biden sues US tax office for 'violating privacy'

United States
Alistair Dawber Washington

Hunter Biden has sued the US Internal Revenue Service, alleging that it breached his privacy rights in a case in which he is accused of evading taxes.

The president's son, 53, filed the lawsuit yesterday, days after a special prosecutor charged him separately on three counts of buying a gun while under the influence of drugs.

He said in his legal submission that IRS agents publicly discussed the tax case with members of Congress and reporters, violating his privacy rights as a taxpayer.

Two IRS whistleblowers, Greg Shapley and Joe Ziegler, have claimed there was a pattern of "slow-walking investigative steps" into the president's son in testimony before Congress. The Department of Justice has denied any political interference in the case.

In the lawsuit, Biden says that "no government agency or government agent has free rein to violate his rights" simply because of who he is. The submission asserts that the agents "targeted and sought to embarrass Mr Biden", and that federal whistleblower protections sought by the agents did not include the sharing of confidential information in press interviews and testimony before Congress.

A plea deal in the case, which relates to more than $100,000 in taxes Biden allegedly failed to pay in 2017 and 2018, was agreed this year, in terms of which he would avoid a prison sentence, but it collapsed in July.

David Weiss has been appointed special counsel to investigate Hunter Biden. He is expected to file new indictments in a federal court over crimes relating to alleged unpaid taxes, possibly dating back to 2014.

Lawyers for the president's son argue that improper disclosures about their client's taxes do not take into account what he later paid. They say that he paid more than $900,000 to the IRS during efforts to resolve the case. They also say that their client "overstated certain items of taxable income" for that year and is now, in fact, owed a refund. "Mr Biden will take all necessary steps to secure the refund of any and all overpayments of tax," Abbe Lowell, one of his lawyers, said.

The decision to sue the IRS escalates the legal fight in an unfolding investigation into the Biden family, a year before the president seeks a second term in the White House.

Last week Kevin McCarthy, the Republican Speaker in the House of Representatives, announced the start of an impeachment inquiry against the president. House Republicans say that he used his position while vice-president under Barack Obama to further his son's business career.

They say that there is evidence of Biden Sr joining his son's business calls, and that there is a "culture of corruption" at the White House.

The White House dismisses the allegations against the president and says McCarthy's inquiry is "baseless". It accuses the Speaker of caving in to the right wing of his party in an attempt to smear the president and deflect attention from Donald Trump's mounting legal troubles.

Many congressional Republicans are also sceptical of the impeachment inquiry, which would almost certainly fail to produce a conviction in the Senate, should it get that far.

"I am so weary," said Lisa Murkowski, a Republican senator from Alaska. "We're seeing the threshold or bar for impeachment going lower and lower. Are we to expect this with every incoming president?"

Asked by The Hill, a political news website, if she would want to have a trial, Murkowski said: "I am not anxious for this at all and I don't think so, no."

Beating crowds with a stay in hospital? It's not cricket

India
Amrit Dhillon Delhi

Fans are going to extreme lengths to attend the Cricket World Cup next month, in ways that seem at odds with the game's spirit of fair play.

India, the host nation, take on their bitter rivals Pakistan in the western city of Ahmedabad, Gujarat, on October 14. With most hotels fully booked and the few remaining rooms going for astronomical sums, fans are trying to arrange a hospital stay to coincide with the one-day international game.

Dr Paras Shah at the Sannidhya Multi-Speciality Hospital said: "When I kept getting calls from people wanting to book a check-up and they all wanted it for the same day, October 15, I was bewildered until I remembered the match," he said. Hotel rooms that normally cost £50 a night have been sold for up to £2,000 a night. The rate for rooms in five-star hotels is even higher.

Check-ups, depending on age and health conditions, cost about £100 — so by booking for a one-night stay at a hospital, fans from out of town will be able to see the match and get a health MoT for a fraction of the hotel rate.

Hospitals located near the 132,000-seat Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, the venue for the India-Pakistan game, are particularly sought after. Apollo Hospital, which is within walking distance, has been deluged by calls for group bookings from as far afield as the UK and South Africa. Neeraj Lal, the hospital's chief operating officer, said: "Some very healthy people are going to be in that stadium."

Moscow summons French ambassador in journalist protest

Russia
Adam Sage Paris
Marc Bennetts

Moscow summoned the French ambassador to protest after Russian journalists were allegedly prevented from attending President Macron's press conference at the G20 summit.

The Russian foreign ministry complained that reporters working for RIA Novosti, the state-owned press agency, were "rudely denied admission" to the press conference in Delhi last week.

Yekaterina Nadolskaya, the editor of Russia News, who once claimed to have been sexually assaulted by Diego Maradona, was also barred, it said, as part of a campaign of discrimination against Russian journalists by the French authorities.

In a statement, the Russian foreign ministry said it had summoned Pierre Lévy to demand that Paris stop "pressure and discriminatory actions" against Russian media. It said French officials had tried to break Nadolskaya's phone, and that a member of Macron's press team had told her she was being barred from the press conference because she worked for Russian media.

A French diplomatic source denied the Russian claims when they were first made during the summit, saying: "Nobody broke any phones, of course, and we had to turn away around 30 journalists of all nationalities due to a lack of space in the room."

AFP, the French press agency, said one of its reporters had noted that the room was overcrowded, with some journalists unable to get in.

In 2017 Macron accused RT and Sputnik, the Russian broadcasters, of spreading lies and trying to interfere in the French election. Both were subsequently refused accreditation to cover election campaigns in France. After the Russian invasion of Ukraine, they were banned by the EU.

However, Macron continued to telephone Putin for months after the start of the war in Ukraine before abandoning the "dialogue".

In 2017 Nadolskaya said Maradona tried to rip her clothes off when she tried to interview him in a hotel in St Petersburg. The Argentinian footballer denied assault, claiming that she had got undressed in his hotel room.

ALEX PLAVEVSKI/EPA



Making an entrance The sailing ship BAP Union, a Peruvian navy training vessel, arrives for a four-day visit in Shanghai, where it will promote culture and tourism

Georgians accuse Kyiv of coup plot

Georgia
Marc Bennetts

Georgia has accused a former government official it claimed is now a deputy head of Ukrainian counterintelligence of fomenting unrest in Tbilisi.

The government of Georgia has refused to impose sanctions against Russia, despite its troops occupying one fifth of its territory since 2008.

Yesterday the state security service alleged that Giorgi Lortkipanidze, a deputy interior minister under Mikheil Saakashvili, Georgia's imprisoned former president, was attempting to trigger "destabilisation aimed at a violent overthrow of the government".

Andriy Yusov, a spokesman for the GUR, the Ukrainian military intelligence, dismissed the allegation. A source told The Times that Lortkipanidze was a key figure at the GUR, but not a deputy head.

Georgia said the organisers of the alleged plot were hoping to capitalise on public anger if the EU failed to grant their country candidate status in December. It named Mamuka Mamulashvili, head of the Georgian Legion of pro-Ukrainian fighters, as one of the plotters. Mamulashvili denied the allegation, sending The Times a "facepalm" emoji in response to a query.

Russia 'genocide' case opens in Hague

Netherlands
Marc Bennetts

Kyiv and Moscow went up against each other yesterday at the International Court of Justice in the Hague in a case that focuses on Russia's claim that it invaded Ukraine to prevent "genocide".

President Putin said last year that Kyiv's "neo-Nazi" regime was guilty of genocide by deliberately targeting the Donbas region, a Russian-speaking area in eastern Ukraine.

Ukraine accused Moscow of distorting the concept of genocide to justify its invasion and filed a case with the United Nations' top court two days after Russian tanks had crossed its borders on February 24 last year.

"Russia has turned the Genocide Convention on its head — making a false claim of genocide as a basis for actions on its part that constitute grave violations of the human rights of millions of people across Ukraine," Kyiv said.

The UN defines genocide as "the intent to destroy a national, ethnic, racial or religious group, in whole or in part".

Moscow is seeking to have Ukraine's case thrown out and objects to the international court's jurisdiction. The hearings will last until September 27. More than 30 countries including Canada, Australia and every EU member except Hungary will make statements in support of Ukraine. The United States also sought to do so, but its request was denied on a technicality.

The case comes as China's top diplomat, Wang Yi, begins a four-day trip to Moscow before a possible visit by Putin to Beijing in October. Putin has not travelled abroad since March when the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for him over the illegal deportation of Ukrainian children to Russia. Wang will meet senior Russian officials including Nikolai Patrushev, the head of Russia's national security council.

The allegation that Ukraine was guilty of the systematic destruction of ethnic Russians in Donbas is central to how Moscow has sought to convince its own people that the war was unavoidable. However, critics have accused Putin of lying about the nature and the scale of the casualties to justify an attempt to destroy Ukraine as an independent country. More than 14,000 people died in the Donbas region in the eight years preceding Russia's invasion last year. The fighting began in 2014 after the Kremlin provided military support to a separatist movement in the coalmining region, sending in troops, security service agents and military equipment.

About 3,400 of the fatalities were among civilians, according to UN data. The remaining deaths were all among Ukrainian troops or Russian forces and the vast majority came in 2014-2015. A series of shaky ceasefires meant fatalities fell sharply in the following years.

The International Court of Justice ruled in Kyiv's favour in a preliminary decision in the case shortly after Russia's invasion and ordered Moscow to cease military actions in Ukraine immediately. Russia has ignored the order and the court has no way to enforce its decisions.

Yesterday Ukraine said that two people had been killed by Russian missile attacks in the southern region of Kherson. It said its air forces had shot down 17 cruise missiles and 18 out of 24 Russian attack drones in Moscow's latest overnight bombardment. Kyiv also said its forces had recaptured small areas in the south and east including near Bakhmut.

Meanwhile, Ukraine said that it was dismissing all six of its deputy defence ministers. The dismissals came after President Zelensky named Rustem Umerov the new defence minister. The move to bring in new deputy ministers is being seen as a routine rotation after the arrival of a defence chief rather than a judgment on their work.

Video of warlord emerges amid death rumours

Marc Bennetts

Videos showing Ramzan Kadyrov walking in the rain have been posted to his social media accounts after Ukraine said that the Chechen warlord, loyal to the Kremlin, was in a critical condition in hospital. Chechen opposition figures had claimed he was already dead.

Kadyrov, right, who has run Chechnya for the Kremlin for 15 years, is accused of human rights abuses, from torture to extrajudicial killings. Rumours have swirled about his health since Friday when Niyso, a Chechen opposition Telegram channel, wrote that he had fallen into a coma. Andriy Yusov, a Ukrainian military intelligence official, said the Chechen leader was in a "critical condition". Unconfirmed reports said that Kadyrov had undergone an unsuccessful kidney transplant. The Kremlin has not commented.

Two videos posted to Kadyrov's Telegram channel showed him walking in the rain and apparently out of breath. However, he barely spoke and it was unclear when the videos were filmed.

The Institute for the Study of War, an American think tank, said the "destabilisation" of the Chechen regime if he died would be a "major blow" to President Putin.



We'll help curb migrant arrivals in Med, Macron assures Meloni

Italy
Charles Bremner, James Imam

President Macron has sent his interior minister to Rome to offer French support for tough measures to stem the flow of migrants into Italy from the Mediterranean.

Gérald Darmanin said that Macron had ordered him to "deliver a message of firmness" about helping Italy to secure its sea frontier after more than 8,000 migrants arrived on the southern island of Lampedusa in three days last week.

"We have to protect the EU's external borders and, above all, look into asylum requests immediately, and send people back to their country when they're not eligible," Darmanin said.

The visit by the French minister, who styles himself as tough on law and order, follows a visit to Lampedusa at the weekend by Ursula von der Leyen, president of the European Commission. She promised Giorgia Meloni, the Italian prime minister, more EU help in handling the migrants, including more efforts to convince other EU states to accept asylum seekers landing in Italy.

Darmanin said that France was not about to open its frontier to more migrants who had landed in Italy. "It would be an error to think that because migrants arrive in Europe they should be dispersed immediately into all the countries of Europe. France is already taking its share," he told Europe 1 radio.

Italy is frustrated by what it sees as the reluctance of more northern EU states, such as France and Germany, to accept its asylum seekers under the voluntary scheme for sharing responsibility, in particular for women and minors.

Macron has clashed repeatedly with Italy over undocumented migrants passing through into France. Darmanin's visit to see Matteo Piantedosi, the interior minister, is a gesture to appease Italy, but French public hostility to illegal immigration means he is unlikely to offer a haven to more migrants.

Meloni announced the construction of detention centres and an extension of the maximum detention period for individuals who entered the country illegally. She said after a cabinet meeting that those entering the country illegally could be housed for up to 18 months, up from the previous maximum of 135 days. The 12-month limit for asylum seekers would remain unchanged.

There has been a surge in the number of arrivals in Italy by sea: 129,869 people since the beginning of the year, a significant increase from the 68,195 recorded during the same period last year. Mayors from various municipalities have voiced concerns about overcrowded detention facilities, leading to more migrants living in makeshift camps.

In a sign of growing tensions between Italy and the EU, Meloni hit back at Josep Borell, the EU's high representative for foreign affairs and security policy, after a letter in which he appeared to criticise an EU plan to allocate €255 million to Tunisia to stop irregular migration to Europe.

"It is regrettable that some Italian and European political forces — for ideological reasons or, worse, for political calculation — are doing everything to dismantle the work being carried out," Meloni said. Borell's letter was published by Il Giornale on Sunday.

In Pontida, northern Italy, over the weekend, Marine Le Pen leader of the French hard-right National Rally, campaigned for the European elections with Matteo Salvini, her ally, by denouncing a campaign to "swamp" Europe with African migrants. "We are defending our traditions, our gastronomy, our identities, our landscapes. We are defending our peoples against the flood of migrants," Le Pen said. Salvini, head of the League party, promised to do everything that was "democratically permitted" to stop "the invasion".

Before leaving for Rome, Darmanin said France would continue to welcome people who sought asylum for legitimate reasons of persecution but 60 per cent of arrivals came from countries with no humanitarian issues, such as Ivory Coast, Guinea or Gambia.

GISELA SCHOBER/GETTY IMAGES



The models Barbara Meier, Franziska Knuppe and Barbara Becker — who is the ex-wife of the tennis player Boris Becker — joined the festivities at the weekend

Oktoberfest costumes given a dressing down

Fake folk costumes from China are degrading the Oktoberfest, the great-grandson of the last Bavarian king said (David Crossland writes).

Traditionalists have often complained that those attending the world's biggest beer festival in Munich mostly wear cheap fancy dress outfits, often excessively low-cut, which insult the proud culture of the Alpine state.

"When I see Chinese-made folk costumes made of plastic, pseudo-costumes with tight dirndls, then the whole thing becomes a carnival," Luitpold Rupprecht Heinrich, Prince of Bavaria, 72, told the radio station Antenne Bayern. "We all talk about cultural appropriation today. Here it's happening to us Bavarians!"

He added: "If the whole thing is just about wearing a costume to get drunk in … you lose a lot of culture and tradition in the process." However, as the owner of the König Ludwig Schlossbrauerei, a brewery west of Munich in Fürstenfeldbrück, he was critical of the tradition of excluding non-Munich beers such as his from the festival.

Oktoberfest could break records this year as it is running for two days longer than usual to take in the German Unity Day on October 3. It is set to beat last year's 5.7 million guests and 5.6 million litres of beer.

This year's festival began on Saturday with the usual procession of oompah bands, folk groups and horse-drawn cars filled with waving waitresses. Long queues formed outside the giant beer tents, which were full shortly after Dieter Reiter, the mayor of Munich, formally opened the festivities at midday.

Within hours, the first visitors were staggering out and congregating on the "Kotzhügel", or "puke hill", a slope at the edge of the festival ground.

Despite the name, most of the festival is held in September following a decision in 1872 to bring it forward to increase the chances of good weather. It usually ends on the first weekend of October.

Barry the dinosaur — yours for £1m

France
Charles Bremner Paris

The near-intact skeleton of a *Camptosaurus*, a 16ft-long dinosaur from the Jurassic period, has been put up for sale at a Paris auction house next month.

The skeleton, which is expected to fetch about £1 million, was discovered in Wyoming in the 1990s and restored by Barry James, a palaeontologist who was one of its finders. In the tradition of giving names to dinosaur skeletons, the set of bones became known as Barry.

Scientists are particularly impressed by the skull, which is one of the most complete ever found.

"It is an extremely well-preserved specimen, which is quite rare," Alexandre Giquello, an expert with the Hôtel Drouot auction house, said. "The skull is 90 per cent complete and the rest of the dinosaur is 80 per cent complete."



Barry lived about 150 million years ago

Barry, almost 7ft tall, was acquired last year by Zoic, an Italian laboratory, which has carried out further restoration.

The *Camptosaurus* — which means flexible lizard — lived about 150 million years ago. On average, two dinosaur skeletons have been auctioned annually in recent years.

The record sum achieved was for a *Tyrannosaurus rex* named Stan, which sold at Christie's in New York in 2020 for $31.8 million.

In April this year a *T. rex* named 293 Trinity was sold at the Koller auction house in Zurich to a private collector for $6.2 million.

The sale of the skeleton, built from the bones of three different dinosaurs found in Montana and Wyoming, was the first of a tyrannosaurus specimen in Europe.

Last year, a *T. rex* skeleton was expected to fetch up to $25 million at Christie's in Hong Kong but the sale was withdrawn after doubts were raised over where parts of it had come from.

The Barry skeleton is to go on display in Paris before the sale in mid-October.

Bumper porcini crop caps summer of wild weather

James Imam Milan

Italy is experiencing a boom in porcini mushrooms at a time when extreme weather has caused the production of other crops to plummet, including grain, oil and wine.

The availability of the mushrooms was up 20 per cent compared with last year across swathes of the country, including the Veneto, Lombardy and Emilia Romagna regions, the Coldiretti farmers' lobby group said in a report.

Southern and central Italy were devastated by heatwaves over the summer, while parts of the north were hit by tornados, large hail and violent storms.

Cultivators were hit by the extreme weather, reporting falls in oil, grain and oil production in recent months. Wine production in the southern region of Molise slid by 45 per cent, according to data published last week.

But alternating hot temperatures and wet weather have also caused the mushrooms to thrive, Coldiretti claims.

"The availability of Porcini mushrooms had fallen in recent years," Coldiretti said . "Now we can say they are back with a vengeance."

Porcini are commonly picked in the summer. Bags of high quality dried mushrooms sell for up to €150 per kilo.

Coldiretti said that as the availability of mushrooms rises the price could fall, and added: "We may be about to see porcini on restaurant menus much more often."





FATIH AKTAS/ANADOLU AGENCY, TURKISH PRESIDENCY/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Elon Musk arrived to meet President Erdogan with his son, X AE A-XII, who sat on the X owner's lap during the talks. Erdogan asked for a Tesla plant in Turkey

Starting young… Musk's son, 3, joins Erdogan meeting

As well as attending the United Nations general assembly in New York this week, world leaders have been keen to secure an appointment with Elon Musk, the owner of Twitter/X (Anshel Pfeffer and David Rose write).

President Erdogan of Turkey met Musk on Sunday. Turkish television showed Musk, 52, arriving with his three-year-old son, X AE A-XII, who sat on his father's lap throughout.

During the meeting Erdogan presented a football to Musk's son, whose mother is Grimes, the Canadian pop star. The meeting got off to an awkward start as Erdogan asked, "Where is your wife?" in English, a language he rarely speaks in public.

"Oh, she's in San Francisco," Musk said with a slightly nervous laugh. "We're separated and I take care of him mostly," he added, nodding at his son.

Erdogan, 69, used the opportunity to lobby the chief executive of Tesla to invest in his country. "President Erdogan called on Tesla to establish [a] factory in Turkey," the president's office said. Erdogan likes to promote Turkey's technology sector, which is arguably most famous for its Bayraktar combat drones, which have been used in Ukraine.

This year Turkey also revealed its first domestically made electric vehicle, called Togg. Production of the vehicle requires extensive imports of electric batteries.

Tesla has six factories and is building another in Mexico. There are also plans for a plant in India.

This year Musk has also met President Macron of France and Pedro Sánchez, Spain's prime minister, both of whom have sought to lobby him.

In June, during a visit to Beijing, Musk also met Ding Xuexiang, the Chinese vice premier. Last week the billionaire angered Taiwan by suggesting that the self-governed island was part of China.



Witness the power of Mother Nature during this four-night stay in Iceland.

Hunt for the spectacular Northern Lights on land and at sea, tour the magical Golden Circle with its cascading waterfalls and erupting geysers, search for whales and dolphins and explore the world's most northerly capital during this exclusive four-night trip to Iceland. To make the most of your time in this unique destination and maximise your chances of spotting the celestial light show, we've teamed up with Northern Lights holiday experts The Aurora Zone.

*Prices correct at time of going to press. Based on two sharing. Flexible departures dates available on request. Subject to availability, itinerary details are subject to change. Operated by and subject to the booking conditions of The Aurora Zone, a company independent of News UK. The Aurora Zone, Maling Exchange, Hoults Yard, Walker Road, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE6 1AB; ATOL 6865. ABTA Y6261

ABTA Travel with confidence | Our Trusted Partner AURORA ZONE

Price Includes

- Return direct flights from London to Keflavik and scheduled shuttle bus airport transfers
- Four nights' standard hotel room accommodation at Hotel Reykjavik Centrum with breakfast, or upgrade to the Alda Hotel Reykjavik. Speak to the Travel Experts at Aurora Zone for a quote
- One evening meal at a central Reykjavik restaurant

CALL TODAY ON
0808 231 2053
thetimes.co.uk/northlightsiceland
QUOTE TIMES^

I'll negotiate with Democrats on abortion, insists Trump

United States
Hugh Tomlinson Washington

Donald Trump has attacked the abortion bans passed by some of his Republican rivals as a "terrible mistake" and claimed that he would negotiate with Democrats to forge "peace" on the issue if he took back the presidency next year.

Speaking to NBC's *Meet the Press* on Sunday, Trump was pressed on his stance on abortion. The issue is one of the most divisive in America following the landmark Supreme Court ruling that overturned Roe v Wade last year, striking down the nationwide right to abortion after almost half a century.

Trump, who as president appointed three conservative justices to the Supreme Court who voted to overturn Roe v Wade, has dodged questions on abortion as he campaigns to take back the White House next year. On NBC, he again declined to say if he would sign a federal abortion ban if he was returned to office but claimed he would "sit down with both sides and … negotiate something".

"We'll end up with peace on that issue for the first time in 52 years," Trump insisted. "Both sides are going to like me. I'm going to come together with all groups, and we're going to have something that's acceptable."

Trump criticised the six-week abortion ban passed this year by Ron DeSantis, the Florida governor who is challenging the former president for the Republican nomination. "What he did is a terrible thing and a terrible mistake," Trump said of the ban, which outlaws abortion before many women know they are pregnant. Trump added that other members of his party "speak very inarticulately about this subject", and said that strict abortion bans passed in some Republican-held states had hurt the party.

The political backlash to the Supreme Court ruling contributed to disappointing results for Republicans at last November's midterm elections. A string of ballot initiatives to curb abortion rights have been voted down in elections across the country, even in staunchly Republican states, underscoring public support for maintaining some access to the procedure. Democrats and abortion rights groups have signalled that the issue will be central to the 2024 campaign.

"Other than certain parts of the country … you're not going to win on this issue. But you will win on this issue when you come up with the right number of weeks," Trump continued. "Because Democrats don't want to be radical on the issue; most of them, some do."

Opinion polls show that with a commanding lead in the Republican primary race and an eye on the election next year, Trump is right to be wary of taking a tough line on abortion. A Gallup poll in June, one year on from the fall of Roe v Wade, found that 61 per cent said the court's decision was a "bad thing".

Prepare for Trump or dictators will call the shots, William Hague, page 23

Anyone seen our missing $80m stealth jet?

Joshua Thurston

The US military has appealed to the public to help track down a stealth fighter jet after its pilot ejected due to a "mishap".

The F-35 warplane from Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina, vanished from radar on Sunday afternoon. An investigation has been launched into why the pilot ejected over the south-eastern US state.

The military offered no explanation other than that the plane had suffered a "mishap", leaving the US Marine Corps with an embarrassing problem: it then had to admit it could not find the jet.

Joint Base Charleston appealed to local residents for help. "If you have any information that may help our recovery teams locate the F-35, please call the Base Defense Operations Center," it wrote on Twitter/X.



The F-35 stealth fighter has evaded the US military's own search teams

The planes, manufactured by Lockheed Martin, cost $80 million each. The base authorities said they were searching near two lakes north of the city of Charleston, with the help of federal aviation regulators and state law enforcement.

The pilot parachuted to earth in a North Charleston neighbourhood at 2pm on Sunday. He was taken to hospital and was in stable condition, a military spokeswoman said. The pilot's name was not released.

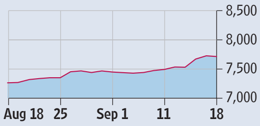
A second F-35 returned safely to Joint Base Charleston.

There was disbelief that the plane could simply disappear. "How do you lose an F-35? How is there not a tracking device, and we're asking the public to what, find a jet and turn it in?" Nancy Mace, a South Carolina congresswoman, asked.

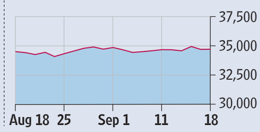
Business

WORLD MARKETS (Change on the day)

FTSE 100
7,711.38 (-58.44) ▼

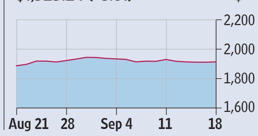


Dow Jones
34,624.30 (+6.06) ▲



COMMODITIES

Gold
$1,929.24 (+3.61) ▲

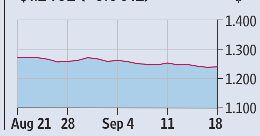


Brent crude (6pm)
$94.07 (+0.29) ▲

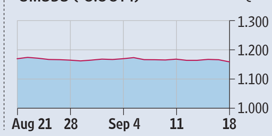


CURRENCIES

£/$
$1.2402 (+0.0012) ▲



£/€
€1.1595 (-0.0014) ▼



Sorrell's ad group loses fifth of its value after profit warning

Katie Prescott

Sir Martin Sorrell's advertising group lost more than a fifth of its value yesterday after it published a profit warning, blaming a weak economy and lack of business confidence.

Investors took fright after S4 Capital cut its expectations for the year ahead for the second time in three months and said the difficult climate would continue until the US elections in November next year. Shares in the firm have fallen 61 per cent this year and closed down nearly 22 per cent last night.

Sorrell founded the digital advertising company after he acrimoniously left the FTSE 100's WPP, the world's biggest marketing group, which he started in 1985. S4 Capital employs 8,500 people around the world with four-fifths of its revenues coming from the Americas. The business has experienced a turbulent few years, including admissions of accounting weaknesses and "inadequate documentation".

Although it has its own particular troubles, S4 Capital is the latest business in the sector to report a hit to revenue from a difficult advertising climate, particularly as technology clients and smaller companies cut their marketing budgets. M&C Saatchi recently reported a pre-tax loss of £5.1 million for the first six months of the year, down from a profit of £300,000 the year before, because of "a significant slowdown in technology client spend and a slower pace of new business". Its share price is down by a third this year.

The advertising business Omnicom's share price has fallen by a fifth since the middle of July and WPP's has fallen by a fifth since the start of the year. ITV's revenue dropped because of what Dame Carolyn McCall, its chief executive, called an "expected" challenging advertising market. The broadcaster's adjusted earnings before interest, tax and other deductions fell by more than half to £152 million. Its shares are down 11 per cent in six months.

Sorrell told The Times: "We clearly have not been as focused on efficiency as we should be and we paid the price for that." He added: "If you're a listed company, you're judged on a quarterly basis. It's all fair in love and war."

Sorrell gives second profit warning, page 39

Electric car sales switch into reverse

Costs and lack of charging network deter drivers

Robert Lea Industrial Editor

Hopes for the mainstream adoption of electric cars have been punctured by figures revealing a fall of more than 11 per cent in the sale of zero-emission vehicles to private buyers.

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders has said that motorists are holding back from the switch because of continued uncertainty about whether a government ban on petrol and diesel cars will be enforced, the cost of electric vehicles, the cutting of financial incentives, and fears about the lack of a public recharging network.

Ministers and the industry have previously hailed rising sales of electric cars as a sign that Britain is ready to move from the "early adopter" stage of battery electric vehicle (BEV) ownership to mass market.

However, the number of electric cars bought by private owners has fallen from more than one in three of the BEV market to less than one in four in just a year. Figures for the first half of the year showed a 32 per cent surge in BEV sales to 152,000 cars, accounting for a sixth of all new registrations.

However, detailed data reveals that private motorists have stopped buying.

The vast majority of new BEV registrations this year — more than 75 per cent — were with fleets and business owners, which can take advantage of company car tax breaks, the benefits-in-kind regime and salary-sacrifice schemes that mean running an electric car attracts dramatically less tax.

In the first half of this year, 37,000 new electric cars were registered to private retail-buying motorists, or just 24.2 per cent of all BEVs. That is down from the 41,800 BEVs sold to private motorists in the first half of last year when retail buyers accounted for 36.3 per cent of all electric car sales.

The fall coincides not only with the cost of living crisis but also with the scrapping of the "plug-in car grant", which at one stage was worth up to £5,000 off a new electric car.

A report from the trade body, highlighting the stalled electric car private buyer market, said: "A faster and fairer mass transition [to zero-emission vehicles] is threatened by the absence of support for private buyers, many of whom plan to go electric but are delaying due to concerns over affordability and uncertainty regarding the availability of a charging network."

Speaking at the launch of the report, Alex Smith, the managing director of Volkswagen UK, said his company's definition of an "affordable" mass market electric vehicle would be its €25,000 (£21,500) ID.2 all-electric car due to launch in a couple of years. That price, however, is more than 50 per cent higher than the cheapest petrol cars.

Mike Hawes, the chief executive of the trade body, said: "We are ready to move from the 'early adopter' to the mass adoption stage of electric vehicles but there needs to be incentives for the private buyer that match the fleet buyer."

He said ministers should look at cutting VAT on electric cars and at public recharging points and reversing the decision to start charging electric car owners vehicle excise duty.

PHILIP HARTLEY FOR THE TIMES



Give farmers fair deal, supermarkets are told

Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall, the chef, has joined food lobbyists in calling for supermarkets to treat suppliers more fairly. A letter to supermarket chief executives said that their buying practices had left farmers "struggling to survive". Page 35

Oil prices 'heading above $100 a barrel'

Emily Gosden Energy Editor

Oil prices could soon top $100 a barrel, analysts have warned, as a steep rally continues on the back of Saudi Arabian and Russian production curbs.

The price of Brent crude, the global benchmark, rose by almost 1 per cent to close in on $95 per barrel yesterday, its highest since November.

Prices have risen from about $75 per barrel at the start of July and have climbed for the past three weeks, bolstered by Saudi and Russia's surprise decision this month to extend voluntary curbs until December. The pair are withholding 1.3 million barrels a day of oil from the market, or more than 1 per cent of global demand, in addition to constraints by the Opec+ alliance of which they are members.

Bjarne Schieldrop, chief commodity analyst at SEB, said it was "highly likely" that Brent would rise into triple digits. "No more than some market noise is needed to drive it above $100/barrel," he said, with crude prices on a "relentless rise since late June".

"Saudi Arabia and Russia are in solid control of the oil market. The global market is either balanced or in deficit and both crude and product stocks are still low. Thus we have a tight market both in terms of supplies and inventories, so there should be limited downside in oil prices."

Callum Macpherson, head of commodities at Investec, said: "If the market remains in a deficit, or it is perceived that it will, there is no reason why the price will not continue higher, albeit with corrections along the way."

Analysts at Citigroup said that factors including the weather and geopolitics "could push oil over $100 for a short while", although they expect prices to end the year lower. Citi sees Brent averaging $84 per barrel in the fourth quarter, ending the year at between $78 and $82 per barrel, and declining to the low seventies next year.

Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman, the Saudi Arabian energy minister, insisted that Opec+ curbs in supply were "benign" and argued that international energy markets needed light-handed regulation to limit volatility.

Need to know

1 Every wrongfully convicted postmaster victim of the Horizon accounting scandal will be offered compensation of £600,000, the government has announced. Just a handful of the 700 postmasters who faced prosecution for crimes such as fraud and theft have so far received full compensation. Page 2

2 The European Union will not agree to a "soft touch" Brexit deal with a future Labour government, Sir Keir Starmer has been warned. Brussels downplayed the prospect of an improved trade agreement with the UK. The Labour leader is to meet President Macron for talks in Paris today. Page 10

3 There has been a fall of more than 11 per cent in the sale of zero-emission vehicles to private buyers. The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders said motorists were holding back because of uncertainty about a government ban on petrol and diesel cars, the cost of electric vehicles, the cutting of incentives, and fears about the lack of a public recharging network. Page 33

4 Oil prices could soon top $100 a barrel, analysts have forecast, as a steep rally continues on the back of Saudi Arabian and Russian production curbs. The price of Brent crude rose by almost 1 per cent to close on $95 per barrel, its highest since November. Page 33

5 Sir Martin Sorrell's advertising group lost more than a fifth of its value after it published a profit warning, blaming a weak economy and lack of business confidence. Investors took fright after S4 Capital cut expectations for the year ahead for the second time in three months. Pages 33, 39

6 One of Britain's biggest car dealerships is to sell its UK motor division to America's Lithia Motors for £250 million. The disposal by Pendragon follows a strategic review. It will return the proceeds as a cash dividend to shareholders next year.

7 Britain lags behind other countries in being able to offer computing power to AI developers, the Competition and Markets Authority said. UK cloud providers do not have the latest chips, which would hamper those trying to develop "foundation model" AI such as ChatGPT.

8 The pound fell to its lowest against the US dollar in four months, with investors bracing for a potential 15th straight interest rate rise from the Bank of England. Sterling slipped below $1.24 yesterday. Page 36

9 Demand for the new iPhone is stronger than analysts expected, with initial orders up 10 per cent on last year. Most of the demand is for the iPhone 15 Pro and Pro Max, with the latter strongest in the US, China, parts of Europe, and India, where orders are up 25 per cent. Page 38

10 Frasers Group is in talks to sell Missguided to Shein, the e-commerce group founded in China. Mike Ashley's retail empire is slimming its fast-fashion operations. Page 39

Sainsbury's serves up beef with lower carbon hoofprint

A roast beef dinner is the weekend's crowning glory for many households — but that piece of sirloin comes with a hefty carbon footprint (Isabella Fish writes). This winter, however, Sainsbury's will introduce what it claims to be the UK's largest range of lower-carbon beef.

The supermarket chain said that after a decade of development and five years of production its new Taste The Difference Aberdeen Angus beef range will offer a 25 per cent lower carbon footprint compared with beef industry benchmarks.

Beef has the highest carbon footprint of any food. Animals used for beef production require high amounts of feed.

In 2018, the climate scientists Joseph Poore and Thomas Nemecek released a global analysis of greenhouse gas emissions involved in producing 40 common foods. Beef — with one 100g serving creating 15.5kg of carbon emissions — came out way on top.

Per gram of protein, beef produces about nine times more emissions than poultry, six-and-a-half times more than pork, and 25 times more than soybeans. Even lamb, which comes second in Poore and Nemecek's analysis, produces less than half the carbon emissions of beef.

Sainsbury's said that the savings in its beef range had been achieved by bringing together its dairy and beef supply chains and deploying new cattle breeding and animal management programmes. Strictly monitoring feed and living conditions meant that healthy calves were raised in the "most efficient way possible", requiring less time and energy.

Developed with ABP Food Group, a supplier and beef processor, the range will feature 16 products.

Gavin Hodgson, director of agriculture, aquaculture and horticulture at Sainsbury's, said that the range was a response to demand. "That's why we've invested many years of research and development into transforming how we produce it," he said. Farmers would "benefit from more security and stability".



John Allwood and his son Jack, who farm in Huntington, Cheshire, with their Aberdeen Angus calves.

Pendragon's American deal steers cash to shareholders

Helen Cahill

One of Britain's biggest car dealerships is to sell its UK motor division to America's Lithia Motors for £250 million.

The disposal by London-listed Pendragon follows a strategic review. It will return the proceeds as a cash dividend to shareholders next year.

Lithia, which is one of the largest US car dealers, has also formed a joint venture with Pendragon to allow the Pinewood brand entry to the US market. Pinewood's software will be introduced to Lithia's 50 sites in the UK.

Pinewood, which has more than 30,000 users among car dealers, will become a standalone business listed on the London Stock Exchange under the new name Pinewood Technologies, replacing the Pendragon brand.

Lithia will buy a 16.67 per cent stake in the business for £30 million, and will acquire more shares up to a maximum holding of 19.84 per cent. The US company will have the right to appoint two non-executives to Pinewood's board.

Pendragon, which sells new and used cars through Stratstone, Evans Halshaw and CarStore showrooms and forecourts, has its headquarters in Nottingham, and employs more than 5,000 people across 160 sites. Lithia Motors has more than 340 outlets and about 22,000 employees.

The group has been building a presence in the UK, acquiring Jardine Motors Group in March. Pendragon said that shareholders would receive 27.4p a share. This includes 16.5p a share from the proceeds of the sale, a retained 83.3 per cent interest in Pinewood, plus an indirect interest in the North American joint venture valued initially at about ½p.

Nick Bubb, an independent retail analyst, said that the deal "looks to be very value enhancing" after Pendragon's shares had fallen to just 18½p in recent months. Pendragon's share price closed up 5¼p, or 28 per cent, at 23¾p yesterday as investors welcomed the idea.

Bryan DeBoer, chief executive of Lithia, said: "The strategic partnership with Pinewood Technologies and acquisition of Pendragon's UK motor and vehicle management divisions is a massive step in delivering on our longer-term growth strategy."

Pendragon received a number of approaches for the company last year but was unable to secure a deal. Lithia made an offer to buy Pendragon's entire business for £460 million, but was blocked by Pendragon's largest shareholder, Hedin Motor Group.

Hedin, a family-owned dealership in Sweden founded by Anders Hedin, then made a £400 million bid for Pendragon. The board reviewed the options for the future of the company in a move that prompted Hedin to say it would block any takeover at less than 35p a share. Hedin later dropped its offer for Pendragon citing "challenging market conditions".

Pendragon said: "The transaction is the value-maximising conclusion of this review and the board believes that it will deliver an attractive cash dividend to shareholders."

Bill Berman, chief executive of Pendragon, said: "The launch of Pinewood as a standalone company is a unique and exciting opportunity to create a best-in-class product for customers, which we can market globally and drive substantial value for our shareholders."

Shareholders holding about 26.5 per cent of Pendragon's shares have already indicated they will vote in favour of the deal. Sir Nigel Rudd, former chairman of Pendragon, is among those supporting the transaction.

Behind the story

And then there was one. The putative takeover of Pendragon and the recent sale of its rival, Lookers, leaves only Vertu Motors on the London stock market as a dedicated UK retailer of new cars (Robert Lea writes).

Inchcape is listed but its UK business is part of a much larger global distribution group, while Motorpoint sells only second-hand. Marshall Motors fell to Cinch's parent company, Constellation, while the luxury car dealer Cambria was taken private.

The likely result is that the UK's top three car dealers will be US-owned. Lookers went to Global Auto, while Sytner has been in the hands of Penske Automotive for two decades.

The acquisitions follow three years of record profits at dealers reeling in never-before-seen margins as vehicle supply, dislocated by the pandemic and transition to electrified cars, met pent-up demand from motorists locked into three-year ownership and financing cycles.

Yet valuations have not fully reflected that. Car dealers have traded at a discount because of a history of small margins and dysfunctional governance.

The Americans say they are buying into a stable economy with affluent customers. That is relative. Dealers know the trade is going through an uncertain time as motorists struggle to justify acquiring pricey electric cars.


SAINSBURYS
Sainsbury's decision to combine its dairy and beef supply chains has cut emissions

Farmers 'left on brink' by supermarkets

Jon Rees

Farming and food lobbyists have sent an open letter to the biggest supermarkets urging them to treat suppliers more fairly, claiming that agriculture is "on its knees".

The letter, written to chief executives of Tesco, Sainsbury's, Asda, Morrisons, Aldi and Lidl, claims that the supermarkets' buying practices are "all too often imbalanced, short term and wasteful" leaving farmers "struggling to survive".

The letter is backed by more than 100 signatories including the industry bodies Sustain and The Soil Association, the chefs Rick Stein and Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall, the nature programme maker Ray Mears and the presenters Julia Bradbury and Jimmy Doherty. It forms part of the Get Fair About Farming campaign, launched by the Riverford Organic vegetable box firm, which is calling for reform of the grocery supply code of practice to better protect farmers and ensure "sustainable trading relationships".

Kath Dalmeny, chief executive of Sustain, the alliance for better food and farming, said: "Farmers and food suppliers need far better protection from unfair and sometimes abusive practices by the big supermarkets."

Andrew Opie, the British Retail Consortium's director of food and sustainability, said that food retailers worked hard to pay a sustainable price to farmers but also had to absorb rising costs. "As a result, operating profit margins have fallen to less than 2p in every pound of sales," he said.

Britain 'lacks computing power for AI'

Mark Sellman
Technology Correspondent

Britain lags behind other countries in being able to offer computing power to AI developers, the competition watchdog has said.

Cloud providers in the UK do not have the latest chips, which would hamper those trying to develop "foundation model" AI such as ChatGPT and Bard, the Competition and Markets Authority said.

The regulator also warned that there was a danger that big technology companies would consolidate their power in foundation models. It is investigating the foundation model market and has released its initial findings.

The most capable foundation models such as ChatGPT (OpenAI), Bard (Google) and Claude (Anthropic) have been developed using huge computing and data resources. OpenAI reportedly spent more than $100 million developing GPT-4, the latest version of ChatGPT. However, access to the most sophisticated chips or GPUs (graphics processing units) made by Nvidia is costly and is restricted because of high demand.

In March, a review commissioned by the government concluded that Britain had fallen behind Russia, Italy and Finland in the world league table for computing power.

As of November last year, the UK had only a 1.3 per cent share of the global capacity and did not have an entry in the top 25 of the most powerful global systems. Its most powerful system, Archer2, the national computing service, ranks 28th.

The review said there were fewer than 1,000 high-end Nvidia chips available to researchers and recommended that at least 3,000 "top-spec" GPUs be made available as soon as possible.

The government is working to address this by spending £900 million on a supercomputer that will be based in Bristol. It is in talks to buy £100 million worth of Nvidia chips for AI training, The Daily Telegraph reported.

Saudi Arabia has reportedly bought at least 3,000 of Nvidia's latest AI chips, the H100, which cost $40,000 each.

Sarah Cardell, chief executive of the competition regulator, said: "There is real potential for this technology to turbocharge productivity and make millions of everyday tasks easier — but we can't take a positive future for granted.

"There remains a real risk that the use of AI develops in a way that undermines consumer trust or is dominated by a few players who exert market power that prevents the full benefits being felt across the economy."

Instacart aims to emulate Arm success

Robert Miller

Instacart will be hoping to match the successful flotation in New York last week of the British technology company Arm when its shares begin trading today.

The online grocery start-up, which has lined up cornerstone investors including PepsiCo, Norway's Norges Bank, Sequoia and Valiant Capital Management, increased its target for the initial public offering to $28-$31 a share on Friday, raising about $650 million. The previous price range was $26 to $28 a share.

On a fully diluted basis, the higher price range would value the company at $9.3 billion to $9.9 billion. Of the total proceeds, up to $237 million could go to existing Instacart investors wanting to sell their shares.

The company's raised valuation target, however, would still be just a quarter of the $39 billion it was worth after its last funding round more than two years ago.

The company was founded in 2012 by Apoorva Mehta, Max Mullen and Brandon Leonardo, delivering food from grocers in San Francisco.

In the six months to the end of June, Instacart reported net income of $242 million, compared with a loss of $74 million for the same period last year, while revenues rose 31 per cent to about $1.5 billion.

In its pitch to investors Instacart has argued that online sales are only 12 per cent of the $1.1 trillion Americans spend on groceries, mainly at stores such as Kroger, Walmart and Aldi, the German discount retailer that has more than 2,000 stores in 36 US states.

Instacart projects that its long-term business model will capture between 6.5 per cent and 7.5 per cent of each dollar spent in service charges and other revenue, while the rest will be passed on to the grocery stores that sell on the platform.

Investment that may prove radioactive



BUSINESS COMMENTARY *Alistair Osborne*

Don't all rush at once. The government is giving private punters "their first chance to come forward and qualify to invest in Sizewell C" — the £30 billion-plus nuke, offering guaranteed cost overruns, prettily located on a Suffolk flood plain.

How's it their first chance? The government's adviser, Barclays, has been trying to drum up support for this project for more than a year. And what's all this stuff about qualifying? Ministers really aren't that fussed where the money comes from, as long as it's not from the likes of China, Russia, Iran or the home of Kim Jong-un's exploding ballistic missiles.

That the government is desperate for someone to stick a few quid into Sizewell has been clear for yonks. So it's a bit odd to find new energy secretary Claire Coutinho making such a hoo-ha about "opening applications for partners to register their interest" or demanding that they have "experience in delivering major infrastructure projects". Indeed, as pointless announcements go, it looks up there with the endless relaunches by her predecessor Grant Shapps of Great British Nuclear: an organisation so far as useful as his Great British Railways, which still seems to be stuck in a siding.

Yet at least the launch of a formal investment process will finally force the government to get real with the figures (report, page 37). So far France's EDF has sunk £700 million into getting the 3,200 megawatt reactor to the development stage: a figure matched last November by the government, including about £100 million to buy out joint-developer CGM, the state-backed Chinese group whose very presence would have barred US investors. After EDF refused to put any more money into taking the project to a "final investment decision", the government's since had to cough up £511 million more.

Even so, such figures are peanuts against the potential costs to come. On a typical one-third, two-thirds split of equity and debt for infrastructure projects, Sizewell will need an equity cheque of at least £10 billion. More, probably, to judge by its sister nuke Hinkley Point C — a scheme, running years late, where costs have mushroomed in present prices from £18 billion to £33 billion. EDF has said it wants no more than a fifth of Sizewell's equity, so that leaves £8 billion-plus to find.

To entice investors, the government has already revamped the nuclear funding formula, switching to the regulated asset base model that got the Thames Tideway super sewer, Heathrow's Terminal 5 and myriad energy networks built. That helpfully frontloads some construction cost overruns on to consumer bills, though an independent regulator would adjudicate how much. Given nuclear's ballooning costs, any regulator would also probably demand a chunky contingency fund, with investors potentially on the hook for some of it.

The key question? What sort of return would investors require and for what risk. There's talk that the government its trying to thrash out a price with potential funders including Brookfield, Stonepeak and Abu Dhabi's Mubadala and that Coutinho's formal process will enable her to harden things up. But getting a decision looks tricky when campaigners have just won leave to appeal the decision to build Sizewell. And, unless it comes up with giveaway terms, it's hard to see how the government won't end up having to fund most of the equity itself. Investors know how easy it is to get burnt with nuclear fuel.

Smoothing the ride

Backseat drivers can make or break a deal. Car dealer Lookers discovered that this summer with its 19.5 per cent owner, Constellation Automotive. It forced Canada's Alpha Auto to pay £504 million, upping its bid by 10p a share to 130p.

Before that, though, rival Pendragon had had a trickier scrape with Sweden's Hedin Motability, its 27.6 per cent investor. A year ago, Hedin effectively blocked a £460 million tilt from America's Lithia Motors at 29p a share. Hedin then noodled about with its own mooted bid at a similar price before pulling out in December, blaming "challenging market conditions".

So it says something for Lithia's persistence and ingenuity that it is back with a deal that has far more chance of getting out of the garage. Instead of trying to buy all of Pendragon via a deal requiring 75 per cent shareholder support, it's tabled a two-part transaction that needs only a straight majority.

It's offering £250 million for Pendragon's car dealerships: Evans Halshaw, Stratstone and Car Store. On top, it's putting £30 million into the rest of the group, taking 16.7 per cent of the outfit being renamed Pinewood Technologies. It houses Pendragon's dealer management software clout — a business with 30,000 users and partnerships with BMW and Renault. Not only will Lithia roll that out to 50 existing UK sites, adding 2,500 users, but part fund a push into North America, a market valued at £2.6 billion a year.

The upshot? A transaction worth 27.4p a share, according to Pendragon, versus a pre-deal 18.5p, a looming £240 million cash return and shares up 28 per cent to 23.7p. Hedin made no comment. But if it wants to stop this deal, it'll probably have to bid itself.

Poor advert

Maybe Sir Martin Sorrell should stop banging on about his "stated 'whopper' strategy". Apparently, the S4 Capital boss means clients bringing in $20 million of gross revenues a year. But after two profits warnings in as many months, the latest sending the shares down 21 per cent to 74.8p, isn't there an obvious risk? That investors confuse it with the ad group's financial guidance.

alistair.osborne@thetimes.co.uk

THE TIMES



Business
Email briefing
Get up to speed in five minutes

Inflation may be starting to come down but the UK's economic growth is still struggling and the risk of recession remains. With the market expecting further rises in interest rates that could affect the growth outlook, access to the latest news and analysis has never been more important.

Get our latest economics and business coverage at 8am and 12.30pm each weekday, direct by email from the Business Editor Richard Fletcher and the Business News Editor Martin Strydom.

Sign up at home.thetimes.co.uk/myNews

Raconteur

ENERGY & SUSTAINABILITY

IS THE UK FALLING BEHIND ON CLIMATE ACTION?



12-PAGE SPECIAL REPORT
distributed in *The Times* tomorrow

Upcoming reports
CYBERSECURITY AND THE CTO
21 September
distributed in THE TIMES

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION
26 September
distributed in THE TIMES

IN PRINT AND ONLINE: RACONTEUR.NET
Raconteur supplements are not regularly distributed with the Scottish or Irish editions of the paper

Shoppers get deeper into debt

Outstanding credit card debt has risen in the past year after the cost of living crisis forced consumers to turn to riskier forms of finance to maintain spending (Jack Barnett writes).

Debt on credit cards climbed 8.7 per cent over the year to June, according to research by UK Finance, the lobby group for banking.

Credit card transactions in the UK and overseas climbed 7 per cent annually in June, while the total value of credit card sales jumped 8.3 per cent to £20.7 billion. Debit card sales rose by 8.2 per cent to £65.3 billion, 5 per cent higher than in the same period last year.

Greater use of credit cards indicates families have been using debt to cover bills because rising living costs are stretching household finances. Repayments on credit card debt are much more burdensome: interest rates have risen to a record of 20.76 per cent, Bank of England data shows. The Bank said in July that one in ten households spent 80 per cent of disposable income on servicing debt, leaving them at risk of financial difficulties. The figure is up marginally over the last year.

Higher credit card rates have been driven by the Bank lifting base rate 14 times to 5.25 per cent. On Thursday, the monetary policy committee is poised to lift borrowing costs again, by 0.25 percentage points.

Rising credit card transactions might also suggest that consumers are confident of their ability to repay debts.

Unemployment, while rising faster than expected to 4.3 per cent, is still historically low. That has prevented a sharp rise in joblessness fears, which may have convinced consumers to spend on credit cards.

Household spending has been squeezed because inflation has been eroding purchasing power for nearly two years. Price growth dropped to 6.8 per cent in July, but figures out tomorrow from the Office for National Statistics are expected to show inflation was 7 per cent last month after petrol prices rose.

Wage growth of 7.8 per cent in the three months to July beat inflation for the first time in nearly two years, raising hopes that a recovery in living standards will stimulate spending and growth.

MAUREEN MCLEAN/ALAMY



Families have been using more debt to cover their bills because inflation has been stretching household finances

Pound slips against the dollar as rate rise looms

Jack Barnett

The pound fell to its lowest point against the US dollar in four months yesterday as investors braced for a potential 15th straight interest rate rise from the Bank of England.

Sterling slipped below $1.24 during early exchanges yesterday morning, a threshold that it has reached since May. It was broadly flat against the euro and retraced some of its losses against the dollar in afternoon trading.

The fall was the latest in the pound's weak run, which has led to it giving up a large share of its gains against the dollar this year. In July, sterling traded above $1.31 and had registered yearly gains of about 10 per cent on the dollar.

Throughout the first half of this year, the Bank of England was expected to send interest rates much higher than its peers. Peak rate expectations hit 6.5 per cent, putting upward pressure on the pound.

These steeper rate forecasts made UK assets relatively more attractive, prompting investors to buy pounds to purchase financial instruments, such as bonds.

Experts have since soured on the pound because of expectations that it will suffer during a flight to safety triggered by slowing global economic activity.

Capital Economics, the consultancy, believes the currency will slide to $1.15 by the end of the year, which would take it to its lowest level since November.

UK interest rate bets have receded in recent months, with traders now expecting the Bank to approve a final 0.25 percentage point increase on Thursday, taking rates to 5.5 per cent.

Analysts at the Wall Street investment bank Goldman Sachs lowered their peak interest rate forecast over the weekend from 5.75 per cent.

There is also a chance that the US Federal Reserve will surprise markets by hoisting the federal funds rate beyond the 5.25-5.5 per cent level, strengthening the dollar. A survey carried out for the Financial Times found that about one in three economists believed that the Fed would order two more quarter-point rate increases by the end of the year.

Signs of underlying inflationary pressures hanging around are likely to push the rate-setting monetary policy committee (MPC) into another increase on Thursday.

New figures tomorrow from the ONS are expected to show that services and core inflation, which the MPC watches closely, stayed high at about 7 per cent last month. Private sector wage growth is also up more than 8 per cent annually.

However, there is evidence that the economy is creaking under the weight of the Bank electing to lift borrowing costs at the fastest pace since the 1980s.

Unemployment has risen faster than the Bank forecast last month to 4.3 per cent, and purchasing manager indices have slipped to their lowest point since January.

The Bank governor's, Andrew Bailey, and its chief economist, Huw Pill, have also signalled that they favour leaving interest rates at a lower peak for longer in an attempt to tame inflation rather than boost them to a steep summit only to lower them shortly afterwards.

Dovish comments from Bailey and Pill, alongside a loosening in the jobs market, "suggest[s] that a pause [on Thursday] is a possibility," Goldman Sachs said in a note to clients over the weekend. Its base case is for a quarter-point jump.

It added: "Looking ahead to the November meeting, we see a greater chance that sequential wage and price pressures will have cooled sufficiently to allow the MPC to go on hold, given their preference for a flatter peak."

Fall in orders is worst since lockdown

Jack Barnett

The economy stagnated over the summer at a rate seen only during the first Covid lockdown and the 2008 global financial crisis, according to a survey, after interest rate rises choked consumer spending.

Thirteen of the 14 sectors examined in Lloyds Bank's UK sector tracker registered a drop in new orders last month. It was the second month in a row where nearly every sector suffered a decline in new business — last seen in the early stages of the pandemic and after the 2008 banking crises.

Chemicals and car manufacturers were hit by the sharpest drop in new spending, Lloyds said. The only sector to register a rise in demand was software services, with an index at 53.9 points, above the 50-point threshold that separates growth from contraction.

Higher borrowing costs are being felt. Initial GDP estimates indicate that the economy contracted at a larger than forecast 0.5 per cent in July, and calls are growing for the Bank to pause interest rate rises on Thursday over concerns that they could lead to a recession. Businesses are optimistic about a recovery, though. "Every sector monitored expected that output would be higher in 12 months," Lloyds' found.

Mehreen Khan



Draghi faces toughest battle yet to unite the EU on fiscal policy

Mario Draghi has a new job. The former Italian prime minister and ex-head of the European Central Bank has been appointed to lead a review of the EU's economic competitiveness to help Brussels work out how to compete with powerful rivals such as China and America.

Draghi is the latest retired Italian politician to be given a bureaucratic role to "review" and "advise" on the EU's shortcomings, with the likes of Mario Monti and Enrico Letta appointed "wise men" roles by the European Commission before him.

Draghi's appointment matters because his stature as the man who saved the euro means that most — including his political and ideological adversaries — usually pay attention when he speaks.

His new role, which was announced by the commission president, Ursula von der Leyen, last week, coincides with the former Goldman Sachs' banker reviving the cause of eurozone fiscal federalism. In two big interventions in recent months, Draghi has banged the drum for the eurozone to take a giant leap into a full-blown fiscal union to accompany its half-built single currency.

Writing in The Economist, Draghi called on the EU to embrace "pooled sovereignty" if the bloc is to finance its collective ambition to decarbonise its 27 economies, challenge Chinese dominance in technology, and wean itself off an increasingly unreliable US security blanket.

"Federal borrowing and spending would lead to greater efficiency and more fiscal space, as aggregate borrowing costs would be lower," Draghi wrote. In a speech to the US National Bureau of Economic Research, he added: "Without action, there is a serious risk that we under-deliver on our climate goals, and likely lose our industrial base to regions that impose fewer constraints."

His calls for mutualised borrowing is far from novel. Fiscal federalism is a cause that Draghi has been behind since the eurozone was imperilled by the threat of break-up between 2010 and 2015. What is new about the call is how far it has fallen on deaf ears. For the first time since the financial crisis more than a decade ago, the political will to create a genuine fiscal union, with the trappings of a eurozone safe asset, centralised taxation powers and a common budget, seems to have evaporated.



BEN KILB/BLOOMBERG/GETTY IMAGES

Mario Draghi and Christine Lagarde, the present ECB president, in May. Draghi's call for the EU to embrace its "pooled sovereignty" has largely been ignored

Even hardcore federalists in the European parliament, who are famed for their unique ability to ignore political and economic realities, omitted mention of fiscal union from their shopping list of demands to overhaul the EU's treaties last month.

Why is this? As Draghi points out, profound shifts in global trade and economics caused by the war in Ukraine have made greater EU fiscal firepower a geopolitical necessity. After Brexit, the bloc's embrace of a limited instrument for joint borrowing to finance Covid-19 recovery spending was hailed as a "Hamiltonian moment" by pro-Europeans and the first step towards full-blown fiscal integration.

That has not transpired, and in 2023, the path towards a genuine mutualisation of borrowing risks has narrowed for reasons that Draghi wilfully ignores.

The first is that the erstwhile opponents of fiscal risk-sharing in the eurozone's "frugal" northern states have not changed their mind. Draghi contends that the realities of today's EU means that the need for financial transfers, from richer to poorer countries, are no longer as poisonous as they once were because of the ECB's actions and the creation of a €650 billion pandemic recovery fund.

What Draghi ignores is that attitudes towards any semblance of fiscal transfers are likely to be met with greater resentment in richer northern states whose populations are suffering from deeper economic downturns than those in the underperforming south.

Germany is a case in point. Europe's largest economy is on course to be the worst-performing in the bloc this year and next, leading its politicians to redouble their fixation on balanced budgets and debt reduction, rather than the opposite. A reasonable debate about the need for risk-sharing in the eurozone can't happen when the countries who think they'll pay for it are in recession.

The other factor to which Draghi gives little air time is politics. EU politicians are rightfully panicking at the prospect of 2024 becoming an "annus horribilis" for the union. Far-right, pro-Russian, EU-phobic parties are making hay in Germany, Austria, France, Belgium and Slovakia. Elections next summer are likely to result in more MEPs from these nationalist groupings in Brussels, adding to the ultra-conservative anti-liberals already in government in Italy, Hungary and Poland.

Resurgent nationalist forces are pushing the EU's traditional conservatives and liberals further to the right, to such an extent that few politicians dare call for greater spending or tax powers to be shifted to Brussels. It's no surprise that last week the bloc's finance ministers spent more time hand-wringing about extremists forces than drawing up blueprints for more integration.

Another unpalatable truth that pro-Europeans need to grasp is that the drive to enlarge the bloc after the war in Ukraine will consign dreams of a fiscal union to the dust. An EU of 30 or 33 member states with new entrants whose economies will require major transfers will draw a larger wedge between the richer west and poorer east. It will require decades of catch-up growth and the eventual adoption of the euro in the likes of Ukraine, North Macedonia, and Montenegro for a common budget and borrowing to be back on the Brussels negotiating table.

Rather than naivety, perhaps Draghi's demands can be read as an urgent call for a legal pathway to a fiscal union before far-right forces kybosh the prospect.

Yet, Draghi's perilous experience as a short-lived Italian PM should be a warning of the risks of binding future eurosceptic governments to promises made by pro-Europeans who came before.

Mehreen Khan is Economics Editor of The Times

Investors for Sizewell C will be put to the test

Emily Gosden Energy Editor

Potential investors in the Sizewell C nuclear plant should have significant experience in producing big infrastructure projects and will be required to pass strict national security checks.

Ministers yesterday formally began a process to attract billions of pounds of private investment for the proposed power station in Suffolk, which could generate enough electricity to supply six million homes. Estimates suggest the plant could cost up to £30 billion.

The government co-owns the Sizewell development vehicle with EDF, the French energy group leading the project, after ministers bought out CGN, the Chinese state nuclear group, last year amid security concerns.

The government has put more than £1.2 billion of taxpayers' cash into developing the plant but the state and EDF want to retain stakes of about 20 per cent in the construction phase. They have been working with bankers from Barclays and Rothschild to sound out potential backers for at least a year but are now seeking applications for a formal investment process.

Nuclear projects have long struggled to attract private investment because of the huge up-front construction costs and the industry's track record of budget overruns and delays.

Ministers have established a "regulated asset base" model offering regulated returns, which is designed to make the investment more appealing.

However, prospective investors have been told they must meet a set of criteria before they can take a stake, constraining the would-be pool of backers. Investors must also "bring sufficient benefits to the company to justify their involvement" and "add value to the project". The government added: "Investment is being sought from those with significant experience in the delivery of major infrastructure projects, especially in large-scale nuclear or other complex energy or infrastructure projects. Drawing from this experience would ensure Sizewell C benefits from expertise in areas such as project risk management, cost control, and instilling projects with a culture of commercial focus."

● The Court of Appeal has granted campaigners from Together Against Sizewell C permission to appeal against the High Court's refusal to allow a judicial review of planning consent for the project. A spokesman for Sizewell C said the claims had been dismissed.

DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION

Top stories when you've got a few hours

A digital subscription keeps you informed wherever you are, whatever you're doing.

Try a digital subscription free for one month at thetimes.co.uk/trial or scan the QR code



LESS THAN £1 A DAY

THE TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES
Know your times

Offer available for new subscribers only. UK residents aged 18+ only. Pay nothing for your first month then £26 per month for the 7 day digital subscription. Visit store.thetimes.co.uk for full subscription T&Cs. This is not a time limited promotion. We reserve the right to change the subscription price with 30 days' notice.

Business

Mondi exits Russia with £666m sale

Helen Cahill

Mondi has completed its exit from Russia with the sale of its largest asset to a property developer for £666 million.

The FTSE 100 paper and packaging group has sold its Syktyvkar plant in northwestern Russia to Sezar Group following its disposal of three other sites last year. Shares in Mondi closed up 3.25 per cent, or 43½p, at £13.80 on news of the sale.

Sezar is a Moscow-based property group that builds commercial and residential properties. It bought Mondi's plant after an investment vehicle owned by the Russian billionaire Viktor Kharitonin expressed an interest. But Mondi said that a "lack of progress" in securing regulatory approvals had scuppered that deal. Kharitonin built the multinational pharmaceutical business Pharmstandard with the former Chelsea FC owner Roman Abramovich and others in 2003.

The Syktyvkar mill employs about 4,5000 people producing paper and containerboard for the Russian market. The business brought in revenues of €1.1 billion and profit before tax of €453 million in the year ended December 31. Mondi's shareholders will receive a distribution of the sale proceeds when Sezar Group has completed its payments for the unit.

Mondi said the Russian authorities had approved the transaction and that there were "no further outstanding regulatory conditions" required.

Mondi sold a trio of packaging converting operations to Moscow's Gotek Group for about £20 million last year. The group sold the corrugated solutions plant and two consumer packaging plants at a loss of between £60 million to £70 million.

British American Tobacco also recently agreed to sell its Russian and Belarusian businesses to a group led by its management team in Moscow. The Lucky Strike maker holds about a quarter of the Russian market and it took 18 months to finalise its exit following the invasion of Ukraine.



Apple bucks phone trend to ring up higher sales

Demand for the new iPhone is stronger than Wall Street analysts had expected, with initial global order numbers up 10 per cent from last year (Katie Prescott writes).

Most of the demand is for the iPhone 15 Pro and Pro Max with the latter strongest in the US, China, parts of Europe, and India, where orders are up 25 per cent, according to Dan Ives, an analyst at Wedbush Securities, who has looked at Asian supply chain figures.

Reports from the market research firms Counterpoint and Gartner show that smartphone sales are expected to fall to their lowest level in a decade this year, because of a slowdown in consumer spending in China and the US, but Apple products buck this trend.

The basic iPhone 15 handsets go on sale on Friday, while the other models are expected to be shipped at the end of next month or early November. Orders opened last Friday for the iPhone 15, which will cost £799 and the Plus £899, while the 15 Pro will remain at £999, and the Pro Max will start at £1,199.

Despite the hefty price tag, Ives estimated that close to 90 million units could be sold immediately because of promotions from networks and that this could hit 225 million units for the whole of next year, when many iPhone users decide to upgrade for the first time in years, with sales also helped by Christmas.

This would mark a boost for Apple, which reported weak iPhone and iPad numbers in its third quarter results. iPhone sales were down 2.4 per cent and



Magazine to become voice for 'forgotten' UK firms

Patrick Hosking Financial Editor

The multimillionaire founder of HomeServe has bought Business Leader magazine with the aim of turning it into a wide-ranging platform to serve what he calls "the forgotten middle" of firms that are neither start-ups nor blue-chips.

Richard Harpin, who with his wife, Kate, banked £500 million when they sold the home repairs insurance group to Brookfield last year, said there was a shortage of help and support for businesses in the 25-250 employee range.

He aimed to expand Business Leader, which has 38,000 subscribers and runs events and conferences for entrepreneurs, by injecting more of his personal fortune to build a peer-to-peer community of founders.

He will also use it to publish his own musings on business success. "I will do the odd article," he said. Harpin has already self-published a pamphlet, "Eight secrets to building a £billion business".

He was spurred into making the purchase after discovering a dearth of UK business magazines. "I went to WH Smith and was horrified to see there weren't many business magazines and most of them were American. We really need a great British business magazine that encourages entrepreneurs to scale their businesses."

The magazine will continue to be published in physical form, while podcasts will be added to the mix.

Harpin was also concerned that while start-ups and the smallest businesses had access to help and advice from a wide range of organisations, more established companies looking to scale up further had less support.

"Policymakers have, for decades, focused on measures to support start-ups and big business, meaning Britain has failed to scale many of its most promising medium-sized companies."

Harpin has already bought into a number of ambitious private businesses since selling HomeServe, including Passenger, an outdoor clothing retailer. He told The Times he had another £100 million earmarked for minority investments in 10-15 businesses and hopes to announce another purchase this week.

Business Leader was founded in 2012 by Andrew Scott, the entrepreneur behind Ascot Group, a digital marketing and media group. Scott will stay on as chairman. Harpin, 59, set up his first business aged 15 selling mail-order fishing tackle.

DAVID PAUL MORRIS/BLOOMBERG/GETTY IMAGES



iPad sales down by a fifth. While demand for the new products are strong, supply has been challenging because of difficulties getting hold of the thinner display screens used in the new phones.

Apple has finally bowed to a new EU law and changed its iPhone charging system to the generic USB-C system. The move was forced on the company by a Brussels edict that sought to reduce the number of chargers in use to combat waste and cut consumer costs.

The new iPhone 15 range, launched in San Francisco this month by Tim Cook, left, Apple's chief executive, set off a frenzy among photographers

Shein adds Ashley fast-fashion brand to its shopping list

Isabella Fish Retail Editor

Frasers Group is in advanced negotiations to sell Missguided to Shein, the e-commerce group founded in China, as Mike Ashley's retail empire slims down its fast-fashion operations.

The deal, which would be Shein's first acquisition of a British brand and could be signed off as early as this week, is expected to include the Missguided brand and other intellectual property, with the head office likely to remain under the control of Frasers.

Less than 18 months ago, Frasers, which owns Sports Direct, House of Fraser and Flannels, bought Missguided out of administration for £20 million. Missguided, founded in 2009 by Nitin Passi, was one of a small group of internet fashion businesses that grew in popularity as high street shops struggled.

The sector boomed during the pandemic, which is when Frasers started to build its own portfolio of fast- fashion brands, snapping up Missy Empire and I Saw It First. It has been building up stakes in Boohoo and Asos.

However, the fast-fashion sector has struggled since shops reopened after lockdown and as environmentally conscious consumers dial back purchases.

Frasers, now run by Ashley's son-in-law, Michael Murray, wants to rationalise its womenswear brands. In July it put more than 100 jobs at risk of redundancy, including at Missguided, as part of streamlining.

One Missguided employee was "disheartened by the lack of Frasers' interest in the success of the brand".

Another source close to Missguided said: "I don't think Frasers believes it can make Missguided any bigger. Maybe they're looking at this more from an investment point of view rather than operating a fast-fashion brand." The source added that a sale to Shein would "make sense" because Missguided's founder had a "good relationship" with the online clothing giant. "I reckon he [Passi] will go back in there," he said.

Shein, which was founded in China in 2008, is a global giant. It has become hugely popular with young western shoppers because of its use of social media, its rapid reaction to trends, and prices of about £5 per dress.

Shein, which now has its headquarters in Singapore, was valued at about $66 billion earlier this year, lower than a previous valuation of about $100 billion. The company has been considering an IPO in the US.

Eleonora Dani of Shore Capital, said: "Given Frasers' strong retail network in the UK, the company could serve as a distribution hub for Shein, reducing shipping times and costs for the latter's UK customers. Partnering with Frasers could offer Shein a more mature and possibly more affluent customer base, while Frasers could gain access to Shein's younger demographic."

Shore Capital reiterated its "buy" recommendation for Frasers shares, which closed yesterday down 7p, or 0.87 per cent, at £7.97.

● Elliott Advisors is reportedly in the running to buy The Body Shop. The US activist investor, which acquired Waterstones in 2018, is one of the bidders for the struggling retailer. Sky News said the hedge fund submitted an indicative offer in recent weeks. Natura & Co, which is listed in Sao Paulo, bought The Body Shop from L'Oréal in 2017 for an estimated $1.1 billion. Natura & Co and Elliott Advisors did not respond to requests for comment.

Sorrell gives second profit warning

Katie Prescott
Technology Business Editor

The digital advertising agency founded by Sir Martin Sorrell has issued its second profit warning in three months after business was hurt by a slowdown in spending with clients "cautious and focused on the short term".

Posting results for the six months to June 30, S4 Capital put the fall down to pressure on technology groups, whose big customers are worried about the prospect of recession. "I think the focus from companies is, let's keep it tight," Sorrell said.

The veteran advertising entrepreneur said he expected the wariness to continue at least until the US elections in November next year, which would provide more stability. S4 is heavily skewed towards the Americas, where it derives 80 per cent of its business.

The company's value fell by 21.7 per cent yesterday to close down 20¾p at 74¾p, from a recent high of almost 250p in February. Analysts at Jefferies called the results "a knock to the already fragile market confidence in S4's all-important march towards longer-term margins of greater than 20 per cent".

The company warned in its half-year results that it expects operational ebitda margins (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization) in the range of 12 per cent to 13.5 per cent, a cut from July when it predicted margins of 14.5 per cent to 15.5 per cent. It expects profit margins to rebound to levels of 20 per cent "over the longer term".

Net revenue is also likely to be "down on last year", the company said. City analysts had forecast net revenue of around £920 million for the full year, up from £892 million last year.

Sorrell said the business was going to focus on streamlining, share buybacks and dividends. "We clearly have not been as focused on efficiency as we should be. So we paid the price for that," he said. Headcount is down by 5 per cent from 9,000 to 8,550, as part of "a disciplined approach to cost management, including headcount and discretionary costs".

Its content division was particularly hard hit. S4 reported lower margins because of rising wages and higher IT costs coinciding with "lower than budgeted revenues". It was a "disappointing" performance, according to analysts at Peel Hunt.

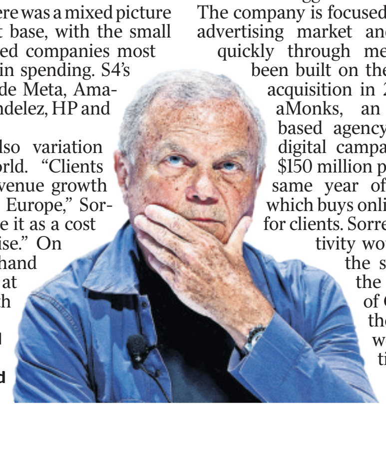
Sorrell said there was a mixed picture across the client base, with the small and medium-sized companies most inclined to rein in spending. S4's top clients include Meta, Amazon, PayPal, Mondelez, HP and Estée Lauder.

There was also variation around the world. "Clients don't see the revenue growth opportunities in Europe," Sorrel said, "they see it as a cost reduction exercise." On the other hand "they're looking at North and South America more, they're looking at the Middle East more and they're looking at Asia Pacific".

The interim results reported a statutory pre-tax loss for the period of £23.2 million, narrowed from £85.6 million a year earlier. Revenue was up almost 16 per cent to £517 million, from £446 million last time.

S4 Capital was launched in 2018 soon after Sorrell, 78, acrimoniously left WPP, which he had turned into one of the world's biggest advertising groups. The company is focused on the digital advertising market and has grown quickly through mergers, having been built on the €300 million acquisition in 2018 of MediaMonks, an Amsterdam-based agency that creates digital campaigns, and the $150 million purchase in the same year of MightyHive, which buys online advertising for clients. Sorrell said that activity would pick up in the second half of the year because of Christmas and the company's work on AI initiatives.

Tempus, page 42



Sir Martin Sorrell says that S4 has not been focused on efficiency

Behind the story

Even the usually tiggerish Sir Martin Sorrell had little positive to say about the state of the world (Katie Prescott writes).

He pointed to economic uncertainty and a complex geopolitical environment with the war in Ukraine, the frosty relationship between the US and China and poor relations with Iran as reasons why clients were cautious.

However, he remains optimistic about his company's overall growth, noting that it had improved like-for-like net revenue growth for the past two and three years at 33 per cent and 82 per cent respectively.

It has been a turbulent time for S4, with a delay in publishing its 2021 annual results because of control weaknesses, staff turnover and a lack of detailed documents.

Sorrell promises a period of calm. He told The Times that S4 would "focus on the train set we've got because I think that's sufficient". No more M&A to see here, at least for a while.

He acknowledged the business could have been more "efficient" but that its prowess in digital, its geographical coverage, and understanding of new technology put it in a strong position.

City analysts will be watching to see if Sorrell can provide the "comfort" they want, as those at Jefferies put it, in the next set of numbers.

Business

The Times unit trust information service

ALLIANZ GLOBAL INVESTORS
Inv Serv: 020 7065 1400 Helpline: 0800 317 573

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Gilt Yield A ‡@	206.01	...	+0.27	1.05
Strategic Bond Fund ‡@	135.16	...	-0.51	...
UK Corp Bond C ‡@	104.79	...	-0.78	3.87
UK Eqty C ‡@	6317.26	...	-14.91	...
UK Eqty Inc A ‡@	306.13	...	-2.53	4.75
UK Gwth A ‡@	7755.12	...	-60.32	...
UK Index A Inc ‡@	1423.81	...	-5.83	...
UK Mid Cap A ‡@	4654.61	...	-11.35	...

ARTEMIS FUND MGRS LTD
0800 092 2051
Authorised Inv Funds

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Capital R Acc ‡@	2191.38	...	-12.31	...
Euro Opps R Acc ‡@	91.26	...	-0.48	...
Euro Opps R Inc ‡@	85.36	...	-0.46	...
European Growth R Acc ‡@	424.56	...	-3.43	1.77
Global Energy R Acc ‡@	39.04	...	-0.07	...
Global Growth R Acc ‡@	350.17	...	-2.43	...
Global Income R Acc ‡@	165.69	...	-1.13	...
Global Income R Inc ‡@	101.88	...	-0.69	...
Global Select R Acc ‡@	154.17	...	-1.94	...
High Income R Inc ‡@	61.67	...	-0.16	6.46
Income R Acc ‡@	517.84	...	-4.31	3.97
Income R Inc ‡@	222.29	...	-1.85	4.09
Monthly Dist R Inc ‡@	63.87	...	-0.24	5.05
Strategic Assets R Acc ‡@	89.17	...	+0.03	...
Strategic Bond R M Acc ‡@	94.87	...	-0.19	3.97
Strategic Bond R M Inc ‡@	48.80	...	-0.10	4.07
Strategic Bond R Q Acc ‡@	94.69	...	-0.20	4.07
Strategic Bond R Q Inc ‡@	48.56	...	-0.10	4.15
UK Growth R Acc ‡@	747.27	...	-8.84	2.13
UK Smaller Cos R Acc ‡@	1791.41	...	-14.49	1.54
UK Special Sits R Acc ‡@	716.99	...	-7.88	...

AXA FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD
Dling: 0845 602 1952 Priv Clients: 0845 777 5511

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Equity Inc ‡@	572.40	...	-2.70	4.43
Gilt Acc @	201.30	211.80	+0.10	1.08
Gilt Inc @	74.35	78.24	-0.39	1.09
Health Acc ‡@	3009.00	...	-37.00	...
Jap Smlr Co Ac @	62.56	66.09	-0.19	0.30
Managed Inc ‡@	138.30	...	...	4.20
Monthly Inc Inc ‡@	206.80	...	-1.10	...
UK Growth Inc ‡@	208.20	...	-2.30	...
UK Select Opps Inc ‡@	1799.00	...	-47.00	...
UK Sml Cos Inc ‡@	250.40	...	-0.40	...

AXA FUND MANAGERS LTD
Admin & Enq 0117 989 0808
AXA Trusts

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Gen Acc ‡@	2101.00	...	+6.00	...
Gen Inc ‡@	1079.00	...	-2.00	...

UK/Global Investment Companies

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Euro Acc A ‡@	234.70	...	...	...
Extra Inc Inc B ‡@	86.74	...	+0.24	1.16
Global Gwth Acc R ‡@	288.10	...	+4.10	0.52
Japan Acc A ‡@	162.30	...	+2.20	1.51
Pac Gwth Acc A ‡@	479.80	...	-17.60	2.30

CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD
08457 46 46 46

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
European Gwth ‡@	209.10	...	-2.80	1.69
Sus Leaders ‡@	782.00	...	-7.50	...
UK Growth ‡@	620.50	...	-5.10	...
UK Income ‡@	203.60	...	-1.20	5.04

CLOSE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD
0870 606 6402

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Beacon Inv ‡	84.88	...	+0.35	...

Dealing: 020 7426 6232

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Winchester ‡	3711.11	...	+29.18	0.99

COLUMBIA THREADNEEDLE INVESTMENTS
Enqs: 0870 601 6183 Dealing: 0870 601 6083
Share Class 1 - Retail

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Corporate Bd ‡@	49.99	...	-0.31	1.57
Emerging Mkts ‡@	116.50	...	-0.50	...
Euro Gwth & Inc 1 ‡@	1225.00	...	-19.00	...
Extra Inc Bond ‡@	43.71	...	-0.03	1.78
FTSE All-Shr Track ‡@	428.00	...	-3.40	...
Global Gwth SC1 ‡@	301.60	...	-3.20	...
High Inc Trst @	11.20	11.79	-0.05	5.41
Max Inc Bond ‡@	43.16	...	-0.03	3.90
Multi Man Caut ‡@	70.41	...	...	3.18
Multi Man Distr ‡@	60.44	...	...	3.37
North Amer ‡@	893.10	...	-9.60	...
Pacific Gwth ‡@	476.70	...	-0.10	0.04
Strategic Bd ‡@	193.30	...	-0.20	1.33
UK Equity ‡@	3446.00	...	+2.00	...
UK Gwth & Inc Acc 1 ‡@	658.50	...	...	...
UK Gwth & Inc Dist ‡@	234.70	...	...	...
UK Smaller Cos ‡@	968.10	...	-7.00	0.20

EDENTREE INV MGMT LTD
0800 358 3010

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Resp & Sust Sterling Bond ‡	82.80	...	-0.21	4.33
Resp & Sust Eurp Eq ‡	331.40	...	-2.60	2.06
Resp & Sust Glbl Eq ‡	338.50	...	-2.30	...
Resp & Sust Mgd Income ‡	118.70	...	-0.50	5.13
Resp & Sust UK Eq ‡	215.80	...	-0.90	...
Resp & Sust UK Equity Opps ‡	274.10	...	-1.60	...

FIDELITY INTERNATIONAL
Private Clnts 0800 414161 Broker Dlgs 0800 414181

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Amer Spec Sits ‡@	2345.00	...	-17.00	...
American ‡@	5664.00	...	-64.00	...
Euro Opps ‡@	566.30	...	-8.30	...
European ‡@	3473.00	...	-47.00	0.83
Extra Income ‡@	21.91	...	-0.03	6.06
Glob Spec Sits ‡@	5684.00	...	-56.00	...
Global Focus ‡@	2934.00	...	-28.00	...
International ‡@	149.50	...	+0.20	0.08
Japan ‡@	614.30	...	-1.80	0.74
Moneybldr Bal ‡@	42.38	...	-0.17	4.16
Moneybldr Glob	327.60	327.60	-0.10	0.21
Moneybldr Gwth ‡@	76.12	...	-0.95	...
Moneybldr Inc ‡@	28.18	...	-0.08	4.99
Moneybldr UK Ind ‡@	131.84	...	-0.97	...
Special Sits ‡@	4517.00	...	-27.00	...
Wealthbuilder	69.75	72.18	+0.53	...

HALIFAX INVESTMENT FUND MGRS LTD
01296 386 386
Authorised Inv Funds
Share Class `C

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Corporate Bond ‡@	31.81	...	-0.10	3.51
Ethical ‡@	114.30	...	-1.50	...
European ‡@	113.80	...	-1.20	1.94
Far Eastern ‡	113.10	...	-1.00	3.42
Fund of Inv Tst ‡@	137.70	...	-1.20	0.60
Intl Gwth ‡	132.50	...	-1.70	...
Japanese ‡	78.23	...	+0.30	...
North Amer ‡	160.80	...	-2.10	0.35
Smaller Cos ‡@	102.20	...	+0.10	1.62
Special Sits ‡@	49.08	...	-0.63	1.06
UK Equity Inc ‡@	93.00	...	-0.68	3.99
UK FTSE 100 IT ‡@	72.05	...	-0.53	...
UK FTSE All-S IT ‡@	80.59	...	-0.67	...
UK Growth ‡@	84.74	...	-0.60	...

HSBC GLOBAL ASSET MGMT (UK) LTD
Enq: 0845 745 6123 Dlg: 0845 745 6126 Mon-Fri 8-6
HSBC Index Tracker Investment Funds (OEIC)

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Amer Ind Acc ‡@	997.70	...	-12.18	1.24
Amer Ind Inc ‡@	790.75	...	-9.65	2.45
Euro Ind Acc ‡@	1205.87	...	-13.63	2.63
Euro Ind Inc ‡@	751.15	...	-8.49	2.70
FTSE 100 Ind Acc ‡@	285.64	...	-1.88	...
FTSE 100 Ind Inc ‡@	127.56	...	-0.84	...
FTSE 250 Ind Acc ‡@	283.02	...	-4.66	3.62
FTSE 250 Ind Inc ‡@	168.53	...	-2.77	3.07
FTSE All-S Acc ‡@	722.00	...	-5.49	...
FTSE All-S Inc ‡@	358.73	...	-2.73	...
Jap Ind Acc ‡@	155.88	...	+1.98	1.88
Jap Ind Inc ‡@	119.16	...	+1.52	1.92
Pac Ind Acc ‡@	498.63	...	-4.96	3.48
Pac Ind Inc ‡@	302.84	...	-3.01	3.61

HSBC Investment Funds (OEIC) - Retail Share Class

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced Acc ‡@	246.91	...	-1.57	1.19
Balanced Inc ‡@	151.95	...	-0.14	...
Corp Bd Acc ‡@	263.83	...	-0.79	5.12
Corp Bd Inc ‡@	100.48	...	-0.30	3.56
Gilt & Fd Int Acc ‡@	497.78	...	+1.62	...
Gilt & Fd Int Inc ‡@	74.17	...	+0.24	...
Income Acc ‡@	730.19	...	+9.87	4.20
Income Inc ‡@	292.71	...	+3.96	4.34
Monthly Inc Acc ‡@	313.41	...	+0.77	3.21
Monthly Inc Inc ‡@	126.73	...	-1.24	4.09
UK Grth & Inc Ret B Acc ‡@	146.87	...	-1.42	...
UK Grth & Inc Ret B Inc ‡@	63.41	...	-0.61	...
UK Gth & Inc Acc ‡@	146.87	...	-1.42	...
UK Gth & Inc Inc ‡@	63.41	...	-0.61	...

HSBC Specialist Investment Funds (OEIC)

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American Index Retail Acc ‡@	997.70	...	-12.18	1.24
American Index Retail Inc ‡@	790.75	...	-9.65	2.45
Asian Gth Acc ‡@	147.77	...	-0.07	...
Asian Gth Inc ‡@	130.99	...	-0.06	...
Chinese Eq Acc ‡@	513.81	...	+0.27	0.40
Chinese Eq Inc ‡@	434.76	...	+0.22	0.34
Euro Gth Acc ‡@	973.97	...	+4.05	...
Euro Gth Inc ‡@	817.05	...	+3.39	...

IGNIS ASSET MGMT
Dlg: 0141 222 8282

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American Gth Inc @	322.55	340.42	-3.34	...
Balanced Growth @	262.17	276.69	-0.93	...
Balanced Growth Acc @	393.13	414.92	-1.40	...
Corporate Bond ‡@	99.69	...	-0.89	4.77
European Growth @	403.88	426.26	-3.57	...
European Growth Acc @	475.71	502.07	-4.21	...
Glob Gwth @	331.53	349.90	-3.09	0.12
Higher Yield @	83.98	88.64	-0.29	4.43
Higher Yield Acc @	275.04	290.28	-0.92	...
Japan @	49.06	51.78	-0.03	...
Managed @	130.89	138.15	-0.06	0.66
Managed Trust @	71.96	76.96	+0.17	...
Mngd Pfolio Inc @	95.54	100.84	-0.11	...
Pacific Grth @	498.71	526.34	-2.81	1.34
Smaller Comp @	756.24	798.14	+1.64	...
Smaller Cos @	628.94	663.79	+1.36	...

INSIGHT INVESTMENT FDS MANAGEMENT LTD
Client Servs: 0207 163 4000
Insight Investment Multi-Manager Funds

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Well Bldr Bal Acc ‡@	96.05	...	-0.32	...
Well Bldr Gwth Acc ‡@	93.79	...	-0.36	...

INVESCO FUND MGRS LTD
Dling: 0800 085 8571 Inv Serv: 0800 085 8677
Brkr Serv: 0800 028 2121
INVESCO Funds

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Str Inc N/Trl ‡@	323.57	...	-0.12	...

INVESCO PERPETUAL Funds

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Childrens Acc ‡@	464.19	...	-3.82	2.32
Corp Bond Acc ‡@	197.12	...	-0.72	3.23
High Income Inc ‡@	318.03	...	-1.76	4.06
Income & Grth Inc ‡@	410.42	...	-2.48	3.32
Income Inc ‡@	1254.55	...	-7.68	3.60
Money Acc ‡@	94.52	...	+0.03	...
Monthly Inc Plus Inc ‡@	90.09	...	-0.14	6.27
UK Aggressive Inc ‡@	154.28	...	-0.24	...
UK Growth Acc ‡@	925.04	...	-6.57	...
UK Sml Cos Eqty Acc ‡@	1266.56	...	-8.38	...
UK Sml Cos Gwth ‡@	82.54	...	+0.04	...

INVESTEC FUND MGRS
Broker Support and Dealing: 020 7597 1900
OEIC Series i,ii,iii, & iv

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
American A Acc ‡@	740.49	...	-10.96	...
Asia ex Japan A Acc ‡@	699.74	...	-7.82	...
Capital Accumulator A Acc ‡@	231.48	...	-3.81	...
Cautious Managed A Acc ‡@	372.78	...	-1.17	1.91
Cautious Managed A Inc ‡@	232.00	...	-0.73	1.93
Diversified Growth A Acc ‡@	121.29	...	-0.94	0.51
Diversified Growth A Inc ‡@	127.80	...	-0.99	0.01
Diversified Income A Acc ‡@	320.88	...	-0.43	2.89
Diversified Income A Inc ‡@	66.65	...	-0.09	4.32
Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Acc ‡@	114.82	...	...	...
Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Acc Gross ‡@	125.82	...	+0.20	...
Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Inc ‡@	63.63	...	...	...
Emerging Mkts Equity A Acc ‡@	145.87	...	-1.64	...
Emrg Mkts Local Curr Debt A Acc ‡@	186.68	...	+0.30	5.12
Emrg Mkts Local Curr Debt A Inc ‡@	69.78	...	+0.11	7.00
Emrg Mkts Local Curr Debt Gross I Acc ‡@	220.49	...	-0.05	5.42
Enhanced Natural Resources A Acc ‡@	134.24	...	-1.25	...
Global Bond A Acc ‡@	139.30	...	+4.03	0.82
Global Bond A Inc ‡@	109.33	...	+3.00	0.82
Global Bond I Gross Inc ‡@	1167.00	...	+29.78	1.25
Global Dynamic A Acc ‡@	193.61	...	+1.95	0.47
Global Energy A Acc ‡@	170.97	...	-1.14	...
Global Equity A Acc ‡@	235.20	...	-1.93	0.13
Global Franchise A Acc ‡@	318.12	...	-3.03	...
Global Free Enterprise A Acc ‡@	1297.03	...	-12.86	...
Global Gold A Acc ‡@	184.96	...	+1.88	0.92
Global Special Situations A Acc ‡@	342.71	...	-2.85	...
Global Special Situations A Inc ‡@	264.56	...	-2.20	0.21
Managed Growth A Acc ‡@	262.04	...	-1.67	...
Monthly High Income A Acc ‡@	243.45	...	+0.43	3.54
Monthly High Income A Inc ‡@	63.17	...	+0.01	5.01
Multi-Asset Protector A Acc ‡@	166.89	...	-0.21	0.92
Strategic Bond A Acc ‡@	244.54	...	+0.19	1.96
Strategic Bond A Inc ‡@	119.47	...	+0.09	3.32
Target Return A Acc ‡@	102.03	...	+0.44	0.82
Target Return A Inc ‡@	87.63	...	+0.01	0.87
UK Alpha A Acc ‡@	2686.29	...	-21.53	...
UK Blue Chip A Acc ‡@	770.11	...	+3.15	...
UK Smaller Companies A Acc ‡@	4319.60	...	-41.30	...
UK Smaller Companies A Inc ‡@	3874.40	...	-37.04	...
UK Special Situations A Acc ‡@	1473.49	...	-15.46	...
UK Special Situations A Inc ‡@	528.20	...	-5.54	...

For ISIS Asset Mgmt see F&C Fd Mgmt Ltd (OEICS)

JANUS HENDERSON INVESTORS
Investors Serv: 0800 832 832 Dlng: 0845 946 4646

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
All Stks Credit A Inc ‡@	110.60	...	-0.30	2.50
Asian Div Inc U Trst Inc ‡@	74.40	...	-0.50	5.88
Cautious Man Fd A Acc ‡@	282.00	...	-1.50	3.25
Cautious Man Fd A Inc ‡@	136.60	...	-0.70	3.31
China Opp Fund A Acc ‡@	1056.00	...	-10.00	0.30
Emg Mkts Opps Fd A Acc ‡@	192.00	...	-1.50	0.77
Erpn Grth Fund A Acc ‡@	300.00	...	-4.00	1.16
Erpn Sel Opps Fd A Acc ‡@	2324.00	...	-29.00	0.86
Fix Int Mnthly Inc Fd Acc ‡@	27.70	...	-0.10	4.50
Global Equity Fund Acc ‡@	4351.00	...	-52.00	...
Global Equity Income A Inc ‡@	65.43	...	-0.54	3.34
Global Tech A Acc ‡@	3321.00	...	-64.00	...
Instl UK Idx Opps A Acc ‡@	116.44	...	-0.92	2.96
M-Asset Abs Ret A Acc ‡@	162.40	...	-0.30	0.82
M-Man Active Fd A Acc ‡@	257.80	...	-1.70	...
M-Man Inc Grth A Inc ‡@	143.60	...	-0.10	3.27
M-Man Inc Grth Fd A Acc ‡@	188.10	...	...	3.14
Sterling Bond U Trst Acc ‡@	200.00	...	-0.70	2.20
Sterling Bond U Trst Inc ‡@	53.94	...	-0.17	2.23
Strategic Bond A Inc ‡@	96.88	...	-0.44	3.18
UK Abs Ret Fd A Acc ‡@	172.80	...	-0.10	0.65
UK Alpha Fund A Acc ‡@	133.00	...	-2.20	...



Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Irsh Sm Co Fd A Acc ‡@	742.50	...	-1.70	...
UK Property A Acc @	264.95	278.15	+0.01	...
UK Property A Inc @	105.80	111.07	...	...
US Growth Fund A Acc ‡@	1895.00	...	-29.00	...
US Sm Cos A Acc ‡@	976.20	...	+14.00	...

JP MORGAN ASSET MGMT
OEIC

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Asia A Acc ‡@	259.00	...	+2.20	...
Emerging Mkts ‡@	261.50	...	+3.00	...
Eur Dyn (ex-UK) A Acc ‡@	270.30	...	+4.70	...
Euro Smllr Cos ‡@	864.00	...	+17.40	...
Europe A Acc ‡@	1734.00	...	+35.00	...
Gbl Hi Yld Bd A Acc ‡@	117.30	...	+1.10	5.30
Gbl Hi Yld Bd A Inc ‡@	30.89	...	+0.29	5.45
Gl ex-UK Bd A Acc ‡@	257.40	...	-0.70	...
Gl ex-UK Bd A Inc ‡@	196.80	...	-0.50	...
Glb Fins A Acc ‡@	1077.00	...	+1.00	...
Global A Acc ‡@	2049.00	...	+11.00	...
Japan A Acc ‡@	516.80	...	+6.20	...
Multi-Man Tst A Acc ‡@	1268.00	...	+16.00	...
Multi-Man Tst A Inc ‡@	1127.00	...	+15.00	...
Nat Resources ‡@	951.20	...	+17.30	...
New Europe A ‡@	155.70	...	+12.00	2.11
Portfolio ‡@	295.60	...	+0.40	0.98
Stg Corp Bd A Acc ‡@	85.59	...	-0.13	1.14
Stg Corp Bd A Inc ‡@	48.30	...	-0.08	1.14
UK Act 350 A Acc ‡@	199.00	...	-2.20	...
UK Dynamic Acc ‡@	206.70	...	+4.30	...
UK Dynamic Inc ‡@	148.20	...	+3.10	...
UK Equity A Acc ‡@	401.90	...	+0.60	...
UK Equity A Inc ‡@	46.44	...	+0.07	...
UK Eqy & Bd Inc Acc ‡@	167.10	...	-0.20	3.41
UK Eqy & Bd Inc Inc ‡@	90.29	...	-0.48	3.50
UK Higher Inc A Acc ‡@	1132.00	...	+7.00	...
UK Higher Inc A Inc ‡@	531.30	...	+2.00	...
UK Sm Cos A Acc ‡@	563.30	...	+7.00	0.34
UK Str Eq Inc A Acc ‡@	197.90	...	+3.50	...
UK Str Eq Inc A Inc ‡@	100.50	...	+1.77	...
US A Acc ‡@	1036.00	...	+25.00	...

JUPITER UT MGRS LTD
020 7581 3020

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Absolute Return ‡@	31.73	...	-0.01	...
Distribution and Growth ‡@	99.25	...	+0.98	2.67
Emg Euro Opps ‡@	145.34	...	-31.23	...
Euro Special Sits ‡@	445.65	...	-8.36	...
European ‡@	2880.05	...	-50.72	...
Financial Opps ‡@	728.27	...	-4.89	1.13
Income Trust ‡@	502.19	...	-3.11	4.59
Merlin Bal (Acc) ‡@	238.47	...	+4.11	3.65
Merlin Gwth (Acc) ‡@	567.20	...	+7.27	...
Merlin Inc (Acc) ‡@	345.82	...	+2.83	3.12
Merlin Wwide (Inc) ‡@	404.27	...	+6.22	...
UK Growth ‡@	258.22	...	-2.26	0.89
UK Special Sits (Inc) ‡@	211.76	...	-1.60	2.24

LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD
Enquiries: 0870 050 0955 Dealing: 0870 050 0956

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Equity Acc @	2616.00	2639.00	-8.00	...
Equity Dist @	893.80	902.00	-2.70	...
Euro Ind Acc ‡@	533.10	...	-6.00	...
Euro Ind Inc ‡@	340.90	...	-3.90	2.41
Fixed Int Acc ‡@	129.00	...	-0.40	2.62
Fixed Int Dist ‡@	59.22	...	-0.18	2.65
Glob Gwth Acc @	243.90	243.90	-1.30	1.15
Glob Health Acc ‡@	110.40	...	+0.40	0.83
Glob Tech Acc ‡@	108.20	...	-0.40	0.04
Gwth Tst Acc @	106.00	106.50	-1.00	...
High Inc Acc ‡@	125.60	...	...	5.57
Japan Ind Acc ‡@	75.87	...	+0.21	1.68
Pacific Ind Acc ‡@	199.30	...	-2.10	3.09
UK 100 Ind Acc @	180.90	180.90	+0.90	...
UK Active Opps Acc @	249.90	252.90	-0.10	...
UK Index Acc ‡@	353.20	...	-2.60	...
UK Index Dist ‡@	167.80	...	-1.20	...
US Ind Acc ‡@	880.60	...	-1.30	0.86
Worldwide Acc ‡@	341.30	...	-1.90	0.80

M & G SECURITIES
Enq: 0800 390 390 Dealing Line: 0800 328 3196
Authorised Inv Funds

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Charifund Inc ‡	1432.33	...	-7.59	6.08

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 1

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Euro Smlr Cos Acc ‡	525.29	...	-3.39	...
Euro Smlr Cos Inc ‡	462.50	...	-3.00	...

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 2

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Extra Income Inc ‡	663.02	...	-2.93	5.90
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc ‡	71.28	...	-0.40	3.28
Gl Hi Yd Bd Inc ‡	38.96	...	-0.03	5.90
Index Linked Bd Inc ‡	108.44	...	-0.95	...
Index Trckr Inc ‡	76.27	...	-0.58	3.85
Short Dated Corp Bd Inc ‡	24.75	...	...	3.48
UK Select A Inc ‡	2717.77	...	-29.10	2.79

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 3

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Corp Bd A Inc ‡	32.76	...	-0.10	4.34
Dividend Inc ‡	50.45	...	-0.31	6.47
Recovery A Inc ‡	105.23	...	-0.61	...
Sml Cos Inc ‡	318.79	...	-2.97	2.73

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 4

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Episode Allocation A Inc ‡@	139.29	...	-0.65	...

MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD
0808 005 5555

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
High Income	84.46	84.46	+0.03	4.60
High Income Acc	242.20	242.20	+0.10	4.47
UK 100 Comp Acc @	470.60	470.60	+11.30	2.98
UK 100 Cos @	226.10	226.10	+5.40	3.05
UK Select Pflo @	338.20	338.20	+6.90	3.29
UK Selection Port Acc @	711.80	711.80	+14.70	3.63
Worldwide Mgd Acc @	963.00	963.00	+13.00	1.54
Wwide Mgd @	557.60	557.60	+7.60	0.56

MORGAN STANLEY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD
Enquires: 0800 0961 962
The Morgan Stanley Funds (UK)
Class A Shares
Equity

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Dev Opp Fund F Acc ‡@	791.32	...	-5.96	...
Dev Opp Fund I Acc ‡@	786.36	...	-5.94	...
Glob Bal Inc F F Acc ‡@	942.06	...	-7.11	4.29
Glob Bal Inc F F Inc ‡@	856.52	...	-6.46	4.42
Glob Bal Inc F I Acc ‡@	940.27	...	-7.10	4.29
Glob Bal Inc F I Inc ‡@	854.90	...	-6.45	4.42
Glob Bal Sust F F Acc ‡@	943.13	...	-5.95	1.80
Glob Bal Sust F F Inc ‡@	916.33	...	-5.78	1.82
Glob Bal Sust F I Acc ‡@	941.57	...	-5.95	1.74
Glob Bal Sust F I Inc ‡@	916.03	...	-5.79	1.74
Glob Br Eq Inc Fund F Inc ‡@	1327.38	...	-9.65	4.02
Glob Br Eq Inc Fund I Acc ‡@	1869.42	...	-13.64	3.99
Glob Br Eq Inc Fund I Inc ‡@	1417.80	...	-10.34	4.10
Glob Br Fund I Acc (PH) ‡@	14067.33	...	-110.09	0.76
Glob Br Fund I Acc (PH) ‡@	1624.76	...	-14.22	0.74
Glob Br Fund I Inc (PH) ‡@	3835.16	...	-30.01	0.77
Glob Br Fund I Inc (PH) ‡@	1544.94	...	-13.53	0.75
Glob Ins Fund F Acc ‡@	583.10	...	-5.44	...
Glob Ins Fund F Inc ‡@	583.10	...	-5.44	...
Glob Ins Fund I Acc ‡@	579.64	...	-5.42	...
Glob Ins Fund I Inc ‡@	579.65	...	-5.41	...
Glob Sust Fund F Acc (PH) ‡@	1224.61	...	-10.95	0.52
Glob Sust Fund F Inc ‡@	1303.77	...	-10.58	...
Glob Sust Fund I Acc ‡@	1325.53	...	-10.77	...
Glob Sust Fund I Acc (PH) ‡@	1221.75	...	-10.94	0.38
Glob Sustain Fund F Acc ‡@	1333.71	...	-10.82	...
Stg Corp Bond F F Acc ‡@	119.58	...	-0.26	3.72
Stg Corp Bond F F Inc ‡@	92.24	...	-0.19	3.80
Stg Corp Bond F I Acc ‡@	2540.80	...	-5.48	3.46
Stg Corp Bond F I Inc ‡@	1300.93	...	-2.81	3.55
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F F Acc ‡@	935.48	...	-0.30	3.25
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F F Inc ‡@	880.91	...	-0.28	3.34
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F I Acc ‡@	930.33	...	-0.31	3.06
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F I Inc ‡@	880.47	...	-0.30	3.12
US Adv F F Acc ‡@	1556.11	...	-27.82	...
US Adv F F Acc (PH) ‡@	881.42	...	-16.54	...
US Adv F I Acc ‡@	1652.74	...	-29.60	...
US Adv F I Acc (PH) ‡@	920.67	...	-17.30	...

SANTANDER UNIT TST MGRS
08457 413002

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Bal Pfolio Inc ‡@	110.50	...	+0.40	...
Bal Port Gwth Acc ‡@	233.90	...	+1.50	1.78
Equity Inc Inc ‡@	199.70	...	+3.40	5.25
N&P UK Gwth Inc ‡@	182.80	...	+0.10	...
Stkmkt 100 Tkr @	270.70	270.70	+5.90	...
UK Growth Acc ‡@	476.70	...	+7.30	...
UK Growth Inc ‡@	251.10	...	+3.90	...

SCOTTISH MUTUAL INV MNGRS LTD
0141 248 6100

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
European Inc	1777.00	1873.48	+4.40	...
Far Eastern Inc	584.69	617.09	-0.73	1.42
Intl Growth Inc	380.56	400.59	+0.02	0.75
Japanese Inc	41.85	41.85	+0.43	0.56
Mutual European	2762.93	2908.99	-21.63	...
Mutual Far Eastern	890.04	939.36	-9.70	1.17
Mutual North Am	1983.00	2092.88	+6.23	0.24
Mutual UK Eq	1419.40	1428.80	-10.35	...
Nth American Inc	1227.65	1295.67	-7.28	...
UK Equity Inc	562.23	593.38	+1.31	...

SCOTTISH WIDOWS UNIT TRUST MGRS
0845 300 2244
Authorised Inv Funds (OEICs)
OEIC A Class
Managed Investment Funds

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Bal Port A Acc ‡@	237.60	...	+0.80	0.01
Caut Port A Acc ‡@	207.10	...	+0.30	...
Caut Port A Inc ‡@	152.00	...	+0.30	...
Opps Port A Acc ‡@	280.20	...	+1.30	...
Prog Port A Acc ‡@	266.60	...	+1.10	...

Overseas Growth Investment Funds

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Eur Sel Gth A Acc ‡@	3371.00	...	+12.00	2.14

Tracker and Specialist Investment Funds

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Trkr A Acc ‡@	397.70	...	-0.20	...
UK Trkr A Inc ‡@	197.00	...	-0.10	...

UK and Income Investment Funds

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Corp Bond A Acc ‡@	278.10	...	-0.80	2.82
Corp Bond A Inc ‡@	101.30	...	-0.30	2.86
Envir Invtr A Acc ‡@	377.00	...	+3.60	1.85
Hi Inc Bond A Ac ‡@	239.40	...	+1.30	...
Hi Inc Bond A Inc ‡@	68.73	...	+0.36	...
Hi Res A Acc ‡@	386.90	...	+1.00	3.98
Hi Res A Inc ‡@	117.00	...	+0.30	4.09
Safety Plus A Acc ‡@	40.49	...	...	...
Strat Inc A Acc ‡@	189.00	...	+1.40	3.80
Strat Inc A Inc ‡@	81.04	...	+0.57	3.88
UK Gwth A Acc ‡@	203.00	...	+1.10	...
UK Sel Gwth A Acc ‡@	2314.00	...	+14.00	...

OEIC B Class
Tracker and Specialist Investment Funds

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Trkr B Acc ‡@	439.30	...	-0.30	...
UK Trkr B Inc ‡@	195.90	...	-0.10	...

UK and Income Investment Funds

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Corp Bond B Acc ‡@	370.70	...	+0.90	...
Corp Bond B Inc ‡@	136.30	...	+0.30	...
UK Gwth B Acc ‡@	205.60	...	-0.30	...
UK Sel Gwth B Acc ‡@	2481.00	...	...	...

OEIC C Class
UK and Income Investment Funds

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
UK Gth C Inc ‡@	131.10	...	+0.70	...
UK Sel Gwth C Acc ‡@	2598.00	...	...	...

STANDARD LIFE INVESTMENTS
0845 279 3003
Investment Funds (OEIC) - Retail Shares

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AAA Inc CAT Acc ‡@	87.86	...	-0.15	1.43
AAA Inc CAT Inc ‡@	48.84	...	-0.08	1.44
AAA Income Acc ‡@	95.89	...	-0.16	1.84
Amer Eq Gth Acc ‡@	207.50	...	-1.40	...
Corp Bond Acc ‡@	153.30	...	-0.50	3.47
Corp Bond Inc ‡@	49.92	...	-0.17	3.55
Euro Eq Gth Acc ‡@	262.10	...	+3.90	...
Glb Advtg CAT Acc ‡@	149.40	...	-1.00	1.39
Glob Advtg Acc ‡@	197.20	...	-1.40	1.36
Glob Eq Uncstrd Acc ‡@	170.80	...	-1.50	...
Higher Inc Acc ‡@	148.60	...	+0.10	4.55
Higher Inc Inc ‡@	44.62	...	+0.02	4.69
Japan Eq Gth Acc ‡@	127.40	...	...	...
Managed Acc ‡@	365.60	...	-1.70	1.57
Select Inc Acc ‡@	91.51	...	...	...
Select Inc Inc ‡@	51.26	...	-0.26	...
UK Eq Gth Acc ‡@	372.70	...	+1.70	...
UK Eq Hi Alpha ‡@	230.00	...	+1.00	...
UK Eq Hi Inc Acc ‡@	267.90	...	-2.20	4.66
UK Eq Hi Inc Inc ‡@	70.34	...	-0.59	4.82
UK Ethical Acc ‡@	196.80	...	-2.10	2.31
UK Opps Acc ‡@	234.40	...	...	...
UK Opps Inc ‡@	211.70	...	...	...
UK Smlr Cos Acc ‡@	713.00	...	-4.50	0.69

SVS BROWN SHIPLEY FUNDS
Enquiries:0141 222 1151

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Balanced A Acc ‡@	136.62	...	-0.63	...
Balanced A Inc ‡@	120.81	...	-0.55	...
Cautious A Acc ‡@	111.12	...	-0.24	1.93
Cautious A Inc ‡@	94.80	...	-0.21	1.95
Dynamic A Acc ‡@	338.41	...	-1.67	...
Dynamic A Inc ‡@	302.40	...	-1.49	...
Growth A Acc ‡@	346.03	...	-1.55	...
Income A Acc ‡@	247.65	...	-0.87	1.86
Sterling Bond Acc ‡@	242.37	...	-0.28	...
Sterling Bond Inc ‡@	97.00	...	-0.11	...

THREADNEEDLE INVESTMENTS
Client Serv: 0800 0683000
Intermediary Serv: 0800 0684000
Institutional Shares (Class 2) (500000 GBP)

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Threadneedle UK Eq Opps Ins Inc ‡@	131.22	...	-0.45	1.51

Retail Shares (Class 1)

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Threadneedle HY Bd Rtl Inc ‡@	36.70	...	+0.02	4.51
Threadneedle Mthly Etr Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	78.80	...	-0.33	3.68
Threadneedle SterlingCorpBd Ins Inc ‡@	51.94	...	-0.15	2.89
Threadneedle SterlingCorpBd Rtl Inc ‡@	51.87	...	-0.15	2.56
Threadneedle Stg Bd Ret Inc ‡@	41.05	...	-0.25	2.57
Threadneedle Strat Bd Ret ‡@	40.23	...	-0.06	4.01
Threadneedle UK Eq Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	98.43	...	-0.43	3.56
Threadneedle UK Growth & Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	92.30	...	-0.46	...
Threadneedle UK Insti Rtl ‡@	184.28	...	-1.31	1.90
Threadneedle UK Mthly Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	68.01	...	-0.31	4.36
Threadneedle UK Rtl Inc ‡@	134.72	...	-1.36	...
Threadneedle UK Smaller Coms Rtl Inc ‡@	338.68	...	-2.19	...

For Resolution see Ignis

TU FUND MANAGERS LIMITED

Fund	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
British	889.60	889.60	-15.20	0.96
European	210.70	219.40	+1.00	...

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return); † Ex dividend; ‡Middle price; . . . No significant data. # Periodic charge deducted from capital; @ Exit charge

British funds

Index-linked

12 month High	Low	Stock	Price (£)	+/–	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
117.45	82.66	Tr IL 0⅝% 42	91.04	–1.07	0.69	1.15
105.21	66.79	Tr IL 0⅛% 48	74.99	–1.17	...	1.31
116.15	72.64	Tr IL 0½% 50	82.04	–1.28	...	1.30
111.08	65.69	Tr IL 0¼% 52	75.35	–1.34	...	1.29
149.39	88.77	Tr IL 1¼% 55	99.88	–1.76	1.38	1.25
114.09	60.50	Tr IL 0⅛% 56	69.96	–1.55	...	1.23
117.10	60.14	Tr IL 0⅛% 58	69.00	–1.58	...	1.23
132.13	64.93	Tr IL 0⅜% 62	75.00	–2.00	...	1.19
126.92	55.87	Tr IL 0⅛% 65	67.06	–2.08	...	1.10
129.79	54.65	Tr IL 0⅛% 68	66.67	–2.14	...	1.07
148.46	55.40	Tr IL 0⅛% 73	69.98	–2.53	...	0.87
105.62	72.26	Tr IL 0⅛% 44	79.88	–1.01	...	1.24
104.98	70.25	Tr IL 0⅛% 46	77.34	–1.08	...	1.29
120.76	80.78	Tr IL 0¾% 47	88.66	–1.23	0.86	1.30
105.10	95.63	Tr IL 0⅛% 26	97.99	– .13	...	0.94
111.80	99.63	Tr IL 1¼% 27	102.70	– .26	1.33	0.59
106.36	93.33	Tr IL 0⅛% 28	97.90	– .31	...	0.56
106.49	92.36	Tr IL 0⅛% 29	97.50	– .35	...	0.59
351.56	301.39	Tr IL 4⅛% 30 *	338.47	–1.36	1.91	0.54
109.01	90.61	Tr IL 0⅛% 31	97.33	– .48	...	0.47
120.37	99.08	Tr IL 1¼% 32	106.20	– .59	1.18	0.56
115.14	92.56	Tr IL 0¾% 34	100.42	– .64	...	0.71
258.74	206.76	Tr IL 2% 35 *	240.76	–1.72	1.01	0.76
108.21	82.01	Tr IL 0⅛% 36	90.99	– .76	...	0.85
123.78	94.08	Tr IL 1⅛% 37	102.74	– .85	1.15	0.92
107.57	78.25	Tr IL 0⅛% 39	86.80	– .87	...	1.05
116.11	84.60	Tr IL 0⅝% 40	93.28	– .97	...	1.07
107.22	75.20	Tr IL 0⅛% 41	84.25	– .94	...	1.10
105.03	97.72	Tr IL 0⅛% 24	98.85	+ .03	...	2.42
380.26	359.04	Tr IL 2½% 24 *	378.10	– .03	1.43	2.34

Longs (Over 15 years)

12 month High	Low	Stock	Price (£)	+/–	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
115.49	89.35	Tr 4¼% 46	92.67	– .65	4.59	4.78
61.15	43.93	Tr 0⅞% 46	47.17	– .43	...	4.73
70.13	51.06	Tr 1½% 47	54.03	– .46	...	4.74
74.08	53.78	Tr 1¾% 49	56.35	– .47	...	4.72
117.50	98.29	Tr 4¾% 38	101.33	– .55	4.69	4.63
72.59	58.05	Tr 1⅛% 39	61.53	– .40	...	4.66
111.29	92.08	Tr 4¼% 39	95.31	– .51	4.46	4.67
117.52	89.75	Tr 4¼% 49	92.44	– .65	4.60	4.76
63.87	44.40	Tr 1¼% 51	46.75	– .45	...	4.70
110.80	82.24	Tr 3¾% 52	84.69	– .66	...	4.73
67.79	46.78	Tr 1½% 53	49.05	– .47	...	4.69
70.42	48.25	Tr 1⅝% 54	50.36	– .50	...	4.67
123.23	90.07	Tr 4¼% 55	92.78	– .75	4.58	4.69
73.50	49.39	Tr 1¾% 57	51.35	– .46	...	4.60
122.75	86.40	Tr 4% 60	88.98	– .67	...	4.63
46.24	26.21	Tr 0½% 61	28.32	– .36	...	4.39
91.47	59.83	Tr 2½% 65	61.86	– .56	...	4.55
116.13	77.61	Tr 3½% 68	79.96	– .68	...	4.55
53.35	35.82	Tr 0⅝% 50	38.12	– .40	...	4.68
112.08	91.30	Tr 4¼% 40	94.71	– .57	...	4.70
71.44	54.72	Tr 1¼% 41	58.42	– .45	...	4.68
98.61	76.78	Tr 3¼% 44	80.52	– .54	...	4.75
117.12	93.79	Tr 4½% 42	97.18	– .62	4.63	4.72
102.68	79.61	Tr 3½% 45	83.16	– .57	...	4.77
106.34	63.35	Tr 0⅛% 51	72.89	–1.26	...	1.30
70.95	42.99	Tr 1⅝% 71	44.80	– .46	...	4.39
57.59	32.96	Tr 1⅛% 73	34.93	– .42	...	4.30
103.74	81.74	Tr 3¾% 53	84.23	– .67	...	4.74

Mediums (5-15 years)

12 month High	Low	Stock	Price (£)	+/–	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
116.13	104.85	Tr 6% 28	107.51	– .27	5.58	4.37
86.40	77.61	Tr 0½% 29	81.49	– .21	...	4.41
87.71	78.21	Tr 0⅞% 29	81.88	– .24	...	4.29
91.05	84.28	Tr 0⅜% 26	88.08	– .13	...	4.55
93.30	85.65	Tr 1¼% 27	88.94	– .18	...	4.41
106.12	96.63	Tr 4¼% 27	99.24	– .21	4.28	4.45
87.24	79.15	Tr 0⅛% 28	83.26	– .19	...	4.38
93.52	84.72	Tr 1⅝% 28	87.84	– .23	...	4.31
103.82	95.72	Tr 4 ⅛% 27	98.21	– .19	...	4.71
95.52	89.28	Tr 1½% 26	92.06	– .12	...	4.51
82.38	72.39	Tr 0⅜% 30	76.21	– .25	...	4.30
83.95	73.06	Tr 1% 32	76.67	– .26	...	4.36
110.34	97.27	Tr 4¼% 32	99.56	– .34	4.27	4.31
101.14	88.88	Tr 4 ⅛% 27	91.27	– .35	...	4.40
79.92	68.57	Tr 0⅞% 33	72.00	– .32	...	4.41
113.35	97.71	Tr 4½% 34	100.30	– .43	4.49	4.46
73.11	61.24	Tr 0⅝% 35	64.75	– .35	...	4.49
112.72	100.56	Tr 4¾% 30	102.78	– .30	4.62	4.30
79.47	69.25	Tr 0¼% 31	73.08	– .25	...	4.33
110.66	94.67	Tr 4¼% 36	97.51	– .47	4.36	4.51
81.78	67.54	Tr 1¾% 37	70.78	– .42	...	4.61
104.43	...	Tr 3¾% 38	90.62	– .48	...	4.65

Shorts (under 5 years)

12 month High	Low	Stock	Price (£)	+/–	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
97.82	92.80	Tr 2% 25	94.74	– .06	...	4.83
104.29	99.24	Tr 5% 25	100.09	– .05	5.00	4.93
100.88	95.02	Tr 3½% 25	96.99	– .05	...	5.03
92.38	86.33	Tr 0⅛% 26	90.23	– .10	...	4.54
94.97	90.15	Tr 0⅝% 25	93.24	– .05	...	4.78
99.43	96.82	Tr 2¾% 24	97.76	– .04	...	5.17
94.34	90.04	Tr 0¼% 25	93.94	– .03	...	4.90
98.21	94.34	Tr 0⅛% 24	98.21	+ ...	...	5.10
97.62	94.79	Tr 1% 24	97.59	– .02	...	5.20

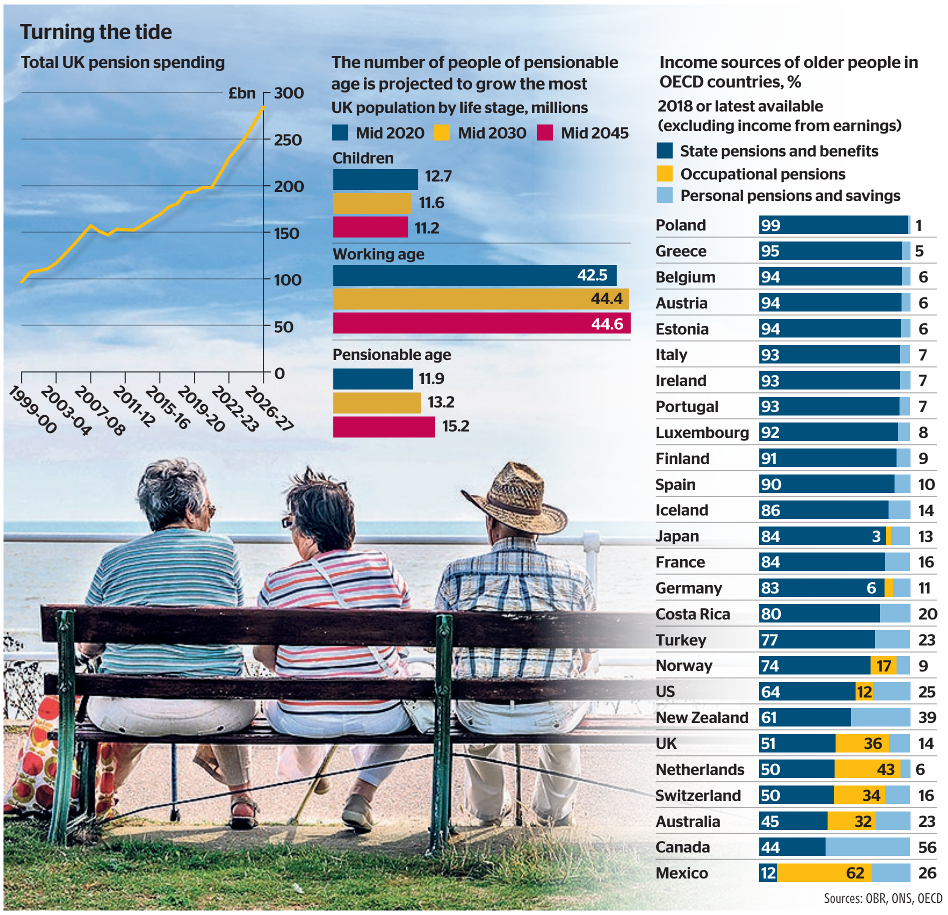
* maturities having an eight-month indexation lag.

This is a paid for information service. For further details on a particular fund, readers should contact their fund manager.

MORNINGSTAR® Data as shown is for information purposes only. No offer is made by Morningstar or this publication

Triple lock did its job, now the search is on for a replacement

Fast-rising wages have left ministers facing an extra benefits bill that could top £100 billion, writes **Mehreen Khan**



Official statistics showing that British workers are receiving inflation-busting pay rises for the first time in nearly two years has put one of the Conservative government's totemic policies for pensioners under threat.

Ministers have refused to commit themselves to including the triple lock on pensions in the Conservative Party's election manifesto next year after official figures showed that earnings grew by 8.2 per cent in the three months to July.

The triple lock, introduced under the coalition in 2010, promises to increase the state pension by which ever is the highest of the annual rate of inflation, earnings growth or 2.5 per cent. With wage growth outstripping prices, earnings are likely to be used for only the fourth time to uprate the pension next April from £203.85 a week to £221.85, costing the Treasury £8.5 billion a year.

Mel Stride, the pensions secretary, warned last week that, in the long-term, maintaining the triple lock would be "unsustainable". Treasury officials had already hinted that the government could increase the state pension in line with earnings excluding bonuses, saving about £630 million by lowering the wages figure to 7.8 per cent.

Why isn't the government promising to keep the triple lock?

Questions about the financial viability of the triple lock have been prompted by a set of circumstances not foreseen when the policy was introduced.

For the past two years inflation has surged, forcing the government to uprate pensions by double digits last year. In 2021 the triple lock was temporarily suspended after an earnings surge during the pandemic.

Until this year, high inflation was not coupled with sustained wage growth. But earnings are now leading to dire fiscal forecasts about how much the triple lock could cost in years to come. Spending on pensioners could grow by as much as £100 billion cumulatively by 2070, according to the Office for Budget Responsibility.

The debate surrounding the triple lock has also been thrown into sharp relief by Jeremy Hunt's forthcoming autumn statement in November, when the government must decide whether to keep its promise to increase benefits in line with inflation while maintaining a generous scheme aimed at pensioners who are more likely to vote Tory.

The Institute for Fiscal Studies, a think tank, says maintaining the triple lock is costing the government an extra £11 billion a year compared with a system in which the state pension rises in line with either inflation or earnings. The Treasury could be spending anywhere between £5 billion to £45 billion a year on the policy until 2050, making it difficult to plan spending.

Has the triple lock worked?

The triple lock was intended to help reverse three decades of real-term falls in pensions caused by Margaret Thatcher's decision to stop increasing the state pension in line with earnings and to link it to inflation instead. In 2000 the state pension was raised by 75p because inflation was barely above 1 per cent.

Steve Webb, the Liberal Democrat pensions secretary who introduced the mechanism, says it was needed to ensure retired people's income was raised while the government was on a drive to slash public spending.

"We were dealing with austerity and the cutting of billions of pounds in benefits from working-age people. If I had to go to George Osborne every year and ask for a rise to the state pension, we know what the answer would have been," Webb says.



Rishi Sunak has repeatedly evaded questions on whether the Tories will retain the pensions triple lock

The triple lock's ratchet has succeeded in reducing poverty among the 12 million pensioners. The basic state pension is worth about 25 per cent of average earnings, the highest since Thatcher's reforms hollowed out the real value of pensions 30 years ago.

What could replace the triple lock?

Rupert Harrison, a member of the chancellor's economic advisory council, has suggested creating an independent body to design a successor regime. Matthew Whittaker, chief executive of Pro Bono Economics, thinks a review body could help calculate the precise level at which the state pension should be set relative to earnings, mirroring the creation of the national living wage, set up to provide 60 per cent of average hourly earnings.

Webb, a partner at the pensions consultancy Lane, Clark & Peacock, says the state pension should be set at a third of average earnings, as recommended in the last pensions committee review by Lord Turner of Ecchinswell in 2005.

Webb and Whittaker back an Australian-style system where the state pension rises with earnings every year, with the inflation rate used only when prices are rising fast. In later years, increases should be set lower to remain equivalent to 33 per cent of average earnings, giving certainty to the retired and reducing volatility in public finances.

How does the state pension compare with other countries?

Public spending on the state pension is due to rise to about 40 per cent of total welfare spending next year. Despite this, the UK still lags behind most its European neighbours and other wealthy nations in the help given.

The basic state pension and other benefits make up about 50 per cent of average earnings in the UK, one of the lowest rates in the Organisation for Economic Development and Cooperation, and marginally higher than the Netherlands and Canada.

When including state and private pensions, British financial compensation is still below the OECD average, according to data compiled by the House of Commons Library.

However, pensioners now have more disposable income than working families, according to analysis of official data by Interactive Investor, The Daily Telegraph reported. It said that the average disposable income for a pensioner couple, after housing costs, rose by nearly two thirds between 1999 and 2022, from £16,588 to £27,144. During the same period disposable income for couples with children rose 41 per cent from £17,524 to £24,752.

Will the triple lock stay or go?

Rishi Sunak has refused to speculate on the content of the election manifesto and has repeatedly dodged questions on whether the triple lock will stay.

Whittaker says it would be "political suicide" for either the Conservatives or Labour to scrap the pledge before next year's election, but that once in office a successor to the triple lock could be considered for the second term.

James Carter, head of pensions products and policy at Fidelity, says a wider system of pensions reform beyond the future of the triple lock is needed to provide "fair and adequate retirements" for millions of future pensioners.

He said: "A broader review of the UK pension system is required, taking into account the state pension alongside the development of automatic enrolment. Considerations must be made towards eligibility for automatic enrolment and how the coverage of contributions might increase in the future."

Zombie insurance fund springs to life with surge in new assets

Max Kendix

Britain's zombie life insurance specialist surprised City analysts yesterday when it reported that it was on track to produce positive net fund flows for the first time in its history next year after new business surged in the first half.

Phoenix Group, which takes on unloved insurance assets from others, reported £885 million of incremental new business long-term cash generation, a key gauge of future profits, more than double the same period last year and far outperforming market expectations of about £519 million.

The FTSE 100 pensions group is Britain's biggest consolidator of closed life assurance funds, often nicknamed "zombie" funds because they are not open to new customers.

Phoenix wrote £3.2 billion of premiums in the first half of the year, double that of the first half of last year. The group boasted a cash multiple — the future cash it expects to generate as a multiple of the capital invested — of a record 3.4 in the first half of the year.

Andy Briggs, who has been chief executive of Phoenix since 2020, said: "We do want to maintain a balanced business mix. The way we manage that is we limit the amount of capital we want to deploy into annuities to around £300 million a year."

Briggs said Phoenix had seen a lower proportion of investment in illiquid assets in the first half of the year compared with previous years, but that proposed post-Brexit changes to the EU's insurance sector regulation, Solvency II, could allow that to change. He added: "Illiquid credit is a great opportunity and we're working very closely with the Treasury and the PRA [Prudential Regulatory Authority] on the Solvency II reforms so that we do end up being able to invest in a broader range of illiquid assets … Work needs to be done to bring it about, but it makes great sense if more of this money does go into productive assets such as infrastructure, climate change, renewable energy, social housing and so on."

The group will continue to look for acquisitions to expand its closed book business, where combining administration costs mean the schemes can be managed more efficiently. Last year, Phoenix acquired the British division of Canada's Sun Life Financial for £248 million, bringing in 480,000 policies and £10 billion in assets under administration. It said it was "confident of further M&A opportunities emerging over time, and we have the financial flexibility to fund transactions".

Shares in Phoenix closed down 11½p, or 2.2 per cent, at 526½p.

Tempus, page 42

Emma Powell **Tempus**
Buy, sell or hold: today's best share tips



WPP emerges from rival's shadow

WPP

Market cap	Dividend yield
£8.26bn	5.3%

The macro challenges cutting short advertising budgets among the world's largest spenders are inescapable. The second profit warning from Sir Martin Sorrell's S4 Capital in just three months has not, surprisingly, unnerved investors in his old shop, WPP.

However, there is reason to think that the latter might sustain less of a bruising than Sorrell's latest venture has endured. Unlike S4, WPP has been unburdened by hype.

Since the outlook darkened at the start of last year, its shares have traded at between seven and 13 times forward earnings. At the top-end that is less than half the peak earnings multiple for S4 Capital over the same period.

WPP now sits close to the bottom of the valuation range, not just since the onset of the most recent deterioration in advertising spending but also in the 15 years since the last big macroeconomic downturn.

WPP's shares already account for another potential heavy cut to guidance. Reduce the earnings forecast by analysts for this year by a chunky 20 per cent and its shares would trade at just under ten times forward earnings, still below the long-running average. S4's once astronomical lead over WPP has been entirely wiped out after the group lost a quarter of its market value on the latest disappointment. That compares with a drop of less than 4 per cent on the day WPP warned about sales growth last month.

While WPP cut its underlying revenue guidance for this year to between 1 and 3 per cent, from 3 to 5 per cent, it held adjusted margin expectations steady at about 15 per cent. Why? It thinks cost savings of about £450 million against pre-pandemic levels, including reducing its rent bill, will help offset inflationary pressures and tepid levels of new work.

A decision to keep a steadier handle on costs in recent years should also prove fortuitous. It is a strategy that has been by necessity rather than just design. Either way, it has made margins more defensible under his five-year tenure.

WPP has been more focused on tackling its once high debt and a bloated structure under its boss, Mark Read, goals against which it has made considerable progress.

S4 is partly a victim of its immaturity as a business. Emboldened by a post-pandemic rebound in consumer spending and demand, S4 ramped up investment in 2021, ahead of an expected wave of revenue including from some big client wins.

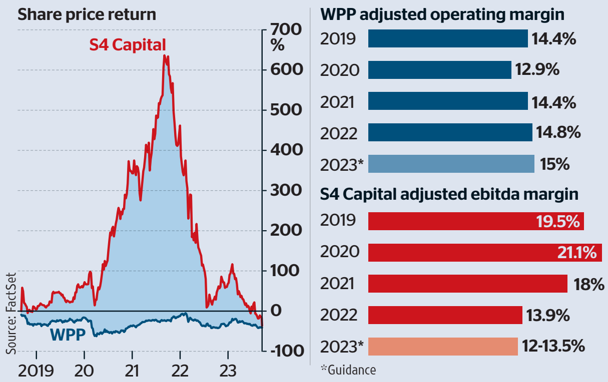
That was behind a drop in the adjusted margin in 2021, and then again last year, when costs rose further ahead of revenue than anticipated. Yesterday's cut to margin guidance to between 12 and 13.5 per cent this year, on the back of an anticipated contraction in revenue, puts it even further out of reach of an ambition to return to margins of 20-plus per cent.

Yet uncertainty remains for WPP, reason enough for the weighty discount on its shares. The higher margin North American business has been the source of the weakness this year. A cut in spending among tech companies battling their own contracting top-line growth has been a big contributor.

Management is betting on an improvement here, helping drive a recovery in like-for-like sales during the second half of the year, compared with the second quarter, when it clocked up just 1.3 per cent growth, excluding fees paid to external suppliers.

But whether that materialises is far from assured, even if annual comparisons do get easier during the current six-month period.

Campaign trail



ADVICE Hold
WHY WPP's significant discount already accounts for more potential downgrades to earnings

PHOENIX GROUP

Dividend yield	Cash generation (half year)
9.4%	£898m

Phoenix Group's beefy dividend has long made it an income play for investors, but the chances of those returns growing sustainably into the future looks better rooted than ever.

The £885 million in cash generated from writing new workplace pensions, savings and bulk purchase annuity business during the first six months of the year alone was enough to offset the £800 million a year lost as its closed book life insurance business runs off. Those books throw off cash as policies mature and as capital held by the insurer against the policies unwinds.

New business is higher margin and is already generating a greater proportion than legacy business. But from next year, for the first time in the company's history, capital flows into that side of operations are set to outweigh funds lost by the legacy books of business that it buys up.

It reinforces a pivotal change in the dividend policy a year ago to increase the dividend consistently, rather than being reliant solely on snapping up open or closed books of business. Analysts estimate that the annual dividend will amount to 52.71p, which would leave the shares offering a potential yield of 9.8 per cent at the current price.

How sustainable is that dividend? Phoenix has business generating £12.5 billion of free cash, after the repayment of debt and interest costs. That would cover the £520 million cost of the annual dividend as it stands for more than 20 years, without Phoenix writing any new business or mergers and acquisition deals.

The shares have struggled in line with the rest of the insurance sector over concerns about the investments held on their balance sheets, but 99 per cent of Phoenix's bond portfolio is investment grade and there were no credit defaults within its bond portfolio in the first half.

Cash generated through so-called management actions — squeezing more out of its legacy books — rose to £471 million — way ahead of the typical historic rate. Management now thinks that cash generation this year will come in at the top end of the £1.3 billion to £1.4 billion guidance range.

Hitting that target could also stir a better share price return.

ADVICE Buy
WHY Shares offer a generous dividend that looks sustainable

NEWS IN BRIEF

Treasuries warning

The Bank for International Settlements, the Swiss-based group that represents central banks, has warned that hedge funds taking leveraged bets to exploit small differences in prices in the $25 trillion US Treasuries market could create turmoil in the wider market. The BIS values short positions using derivatives in Treasury futures at about $600 billion. "The build-up of leveraged short positions in US Treasury futures is a financial vulnerability worth monitoring because of the margin spirals it could potentially trigger," it said.

Airline looks at listing

The low-cost Spanish airline Volotea has hired Barclays and Morgan Stanley to prepare a possible listing on the Madrid stock exchange. The decision is not final but management wants to be ready if a market opportunity arises, according to the newspaper Expansión. Volotea, which connects medium-sized cities in Spain, France, Italy, Greece and Germany, said: "A listing on the stock market is a natural step we have always considered."

Oil man gets EG post

EG Group, the owner of Asda supermarkets, petrol forecourts and convenience stores, has appointed John Carey, a former senior BP manager, as chief executive and president of its American unit from next month. EG America, the group's largest market by revenue and sites, operates 1,645 convenience store and fuel retail sites in 30 states under ten brands, including Cumberland Farms, Kwik Shop, Loaf N' Jug, Minit Mart, Quik Stop, Sprint and Tom Thumb.

Green boycott threat

More than half of UK shoppers are prepared to boycott brands over misleading green claims, according to a poll. KPMG surveyed more than 2,000 adults on their attitudes towards green products and technologies. The professional services group found that 54 per cent of consumers said they would stop buying from a company if it was found to have been misleading in its sustainability claims, while 38 per cent would stop investing in the company.

PRICES

Major indices

New York	
Dow Jones	34624.30 (+6.06)
Nasdaq Composite	13710.24 (+1.90)
S&P 500	4453.53 (+3.21)
Tokyo	
Nikkei 225	33533.09 n/a
Hong Kong	
Hang Seng	17930.55 (-252.34)
Amsterdam	
AEX Index	735.85 (-5.66)
Sydney	
AO	7428.10 (-54.50)
Frankfurt	
DAX	15727.12 (-166.41)
Singapore	
Straits	3263.39 (-17.30)
Brussels	
BEL20	3674.04 (-38.34)
Paris	
CAC-40	7276.14 (-102.68)
Zurich	
SMI Index	11090.61 (-107.11)
DJ Euro Stoxx 50	4245.88 (-49.17)
London	
FTSE 100	7652.94 (-58.44)
FTSE 250	18449.27 (-340.50)
FTSE 350	4196.55 (-38.27)
FTSE Eurotop 100	3609.26 (-38.49)
FTSE All-Shares	4152.91 (-37.50)
FTSE Non Financials	5065.89 (-40.61)
techMARK 100	6414.72 (-100.55)
Bargains	n/a
US$	1.2381 (-0.0015)
Euro	1.1591 (-0.0028)
£:SDR	0.98 (+0.00)
Exchange Index	81.48 (-0.11)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
CPI	130.90 Jul (2015 = 100)
RPI	374.20 Jul (Jan 1987 = 100)
RPIX	371.90 Jul (Jan 1987 = 100)
Morningstar Long Commodity	677.16 (+5.72)
Morningstar Long/Short Commod	4703.45 (+27.75)

London Financial Futures

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol	Open Int
Long Gilt	SEP 23	96.050	96.050	95.560	95.030	38	206
	Dec 23	95.180	95.230	94.640	94.890	158993	505222
3-Mth Sterling	Sep 23						
	Dec 23						
	Mar 24						
	Jun 24						
	Sep 24						
3-Mth Euribor	Sep 23	96.070	96.090	96.065	96.097	55024	682440
	Dec 23	95.990	95.990	95.970	95.975	182378	639147
	Mar 24	96.050	96.055	96.015	96.020	142935	588510
	Jun 24	96.210	96.210	96.145	96.150	146512	523376
	Sep 24	96.430	96.430	96.345	96.355	94382	246763
3-Mth Euroswiss	Sep 23						
	Dec 23						
	Mar 24						
	Jun 24						
FTSE100	Dec 23	7780.0	7782.0	7700.0	7709.0	88701	500209
	Mar 24	7583.0	7583.0	7583.0	7830.5	1	263
FTSEurofirst 80	Dec 23				5783.0		
	Mar 24				5810.5		

Tradeweb © 2021 Tradeweb Markets LLC. All rights reserved. The Tradeweb FTSE Gilt Closing Prices information contained herein is proprietary to Tradeweb; may not be copied or re-distributed; is not warranted to be accurate, complete or timely; and does not constitute investment advice. Tradeweb is not responsible for any loss or damage that might result from the use of this information.

Commodities

ICIS pricing (London 7.30pm)

Crude Oils ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	95.44	+0.48
BFOE(Nov)	94.50	+0.50
BFOE(Dec)	93.38	+0.25
WTI(Nov)	90.58	+0.56
WTI(Dec)	89.76	+0.79

Products ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Unld	990.00	994.00	+7.00
Gasoil EEC	979.00	980.00	-19.75
3.5 Fuel Oil	570.00	571.00	-8.00
Naphtha	714.00	728.00	+7.00

ICE Futures

Gas Oil

Oct	962.50-962.25	Jan	886.50-885.75
Nov	932.00-931.50	Feb	875.00-874.50
Dec	901.25-901.00		Volume: 691285

Brent (9.00pm)

Nov	94.62-94.61	Feb	91.28-91.25
Dec	93.56-93.55	Mar	90.22-90.19
Jan	92.39-92.37		Volume: 2162183

LIFFE

Cocoa

Dec	3040-3037	Mar	2765-2720
Mar	2982-2977	May	2749-2588
May	2890-2884	Jul	2583 BID
Jul	2870-2804		
Sep	2824-2700		
Dec	2769-2700		Volume: 79647

RobustaCoffee

Sep	2640-2550	May	2365-2347
Nov	2570-2568	Jul	2375-2250
Jan	2443-2440		
Mar	2399-2350		Volume: 27282

White Sugar (FOB)

Reuters		Aug	689.60-686.70
		Oct	665.10-661.10
Dec	736.00-735.20	Dec	651.10-643.00
Mar	732.40-727.50	Mar	646.80-627.70
May	717.20-715.80		Volume: 68261

Royal Mail's owner finally given a stamp of approval



Ben Martin *Market report*

After a torrid 12 months for International Distributions Services marred by a bitter industrial dispute and ballooning losses, analysts at one of the City's top stockbrokers believe investors should start buying shares in the owner of Royal Mail.

Shares in the FTSE 250 group, which also owns GLS, the overseas parcels business, climbed by 5p, or 1.9 per cent, to 262¼p after analysts at JPMorgan upgraded their recommendation to "overweight".

They argued that the company had a cheap valuation despite a deal between Royal Mail and the Communication Workers Union, which postal workers accepted in July, ending a year-long pay dispute. The disruption pushed Royal Mail to a £1 billion operating loss in the year to March 26, resulting in IDS swinging £748 million into the red.

Another potential boost was a move by Ofcom, the regulator, to gather evidence on reducing Royal Mail's six-day-a-week universal service obligation to five days, JPMorgan told clients. This could save Royal Mail as much as £225 million a year, Ofcom said, although a decision is ultimately for the government. "We think there are reasons to believe we are at an inflection point," the analysts said. "The valuation has not materially changed in recent months, and still seems to apply zero value to the UK business. This provides an attractive entry point, and also provides some protection against any recovery in the UK business failing to materialise."

While IDS ended the day as one of the biggest risers in the FTSE 250, an air of caution pervaded the wider stock market as investors braced for interest rate decisions in Britain, the US and Japan this week. Worries that rising oil prices, with Brent crude approaching $95 a barrel yesterday, will fuel inflation also hit investor sentiment and the FTSE 100 fell by 58.44 points, or 0.8 per cent, to 7,652.94. The mid-cap FTSE 250 index was down 340.50 points, or 1.8 per cent, at 18,449.27.

The Bank of England will announce its base rate decision on Thursday, with investors predicting it will be lifted for a 15th consecutive time to 5.5 per cent. Property shares fell amid fears for the impact on an already-slowing housing market: **Persimmon**, the builder, declined by 49½p, or 4.6 per cent, to £10.29, **Rightmove**, which runs the eponymous property website, was down 16¾p, or 3 per cent, at 544¾p, and **Berkeley Group**, another builder, was off 124p, or 3 per cent, at £40.85.

The US Federal Reserve is expected to hold its main rate at its target range of 5.25 per cent to 5.5 per cent tomorrow, while on Friday the Bank of Japan is predicted to keep rates at -0.1 per cent. Central banks in Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey are due to hold policy meetings on Thursday.

In London, the most eye-catching moves were by the advertising group **S4 Capital**, down 20¾p, or 21.7 per cent, at 74¾p, and **Pendragon**, the car dealer, which jumped by 5¼p, or 28.3 per cent, to 23¾p. S4 slumped after it cut its annual revenue for the second time in two months, dragging its bigger rival **WPP** 20p, or 2.6 per cent lower, to 752½p. Pendragon surged after revealing a £280 million deal to sell its UK motor retailer and leasing business.

Ocado, up 23½p, or 3.1 per cent, at 787p, was one of the biggest gainers in the FTSE 100 ahead of a third-quarter trading update after analysts at Jefferies lifted their price target on shares in the online grocery delivery business to 750p from 550p. They have a "hold" recommendation.

Wall Street report

Indices ended marginally higher as oil neared $95 a barrel a day before the Federal Reserve's rate decision, with 97 per cent of traders' bets being on a hold. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 6.06 points, or 0.02 per cent, to 34,624.30.

FINANCE

Goldman cuts FTSE 100 target

Goldman Sachs gave investors little reason to cheer on a gloomy day for the stock market. Strategists at the investment bank said they had trimmed their 12-month target price for the FTSE 100 from 8,000 to 7,900, which suggests a meagre 3 per cent price return.

They said that although the index, which is dominated by companies that generate their earnings overseas, was "largely immune from the domestic growth concerns", the appeal of shares was waning compared with bonds. "As an asset class, bonds now provide a reasonable alternative to equities; both UK and US ten-year bond yields are above 4 per cent," they said. Their assessment of the London stock market was not all negative, however. "We see globally equities trading in a 'fat and flat' range and tend to highlight companies with very strong growth prospects or those returning cash to shareholders via dividends/buybacks. On this last point, the UK has a lot to offer, with a large dividend yield and high buybacks supported by one of the highest free cashflow yields globally."

Over the past year the FTSE 100 has traded in a range spanning from 6,707.62 to a high of 8,047.06.



Strategists at the bank said bonds provided a more reliable return



ARTISANAL SPIRITS COMPANY

Growth puts members in high spirits

The Artisanal Spirits Company (ASC), which owns The Scotch Malt Whisky Society, has reassured investors it is on target to produce its first positive underlying earnings, despite a 1p fall in the share price to 68p (Dominic Walsh writes).

Andrew Dane, 40, chief executive, said the business continued to deliver on its financial and strategic objectives in the first half, increasing member numbers by 9 per cent to 38.7 million. The biggest number was in the UK — up 3 per cent at 18.2 million.

It continued to expand around the world, establishing a new franchise in South Korea and signing franchises in Malaysia and Singapore. In Taiwan, the world's third-biggest whisky market, it replaced a franchise deal with a more lucrative joint venture, securing 500 members on day one.

In the first six months, the group pushed up revenue by 3 per cent to £10.2 million, with pre-tax losses widening from £1.1 million to £3.5 million and its net debt ballooning by 218 per cent.

It increased the number of casks to about 16,700, with a bank valuation of £38 million.

The retail value rose by 8 per cent to £492 million.

The day's biggest movers

Company	Change
Drax Group Stabilises after a drop on Friday	3.8%
Mondi Jumps on deal to exit Russia	3.3%
Ocado Group Lifted by a broker upgrade ahead of quarterly update	3.1%
Essentra Biggest one day rise for two months	2.5%
Helios Towers Rebounds from a heavy fall on Friday	2.3%
Ascential Biggest one-day fall for two months	-6.2%
Future Ends a five-day rising streak	-7.0%
Ferrexpo Reverses Friday's big gain	-7.4%
Synthomer Under pressure after profit warning this month	-7.9%
Aston Martin Lagonda Fifth straight trading session of losses	-9.0%

London Grain Futures

LIFFE Wheat (close £/t)

Nov	189.00	Jan	unq	Mar	unq
May	199.55	Jul	unq	Volume: 684	

London Metal Exchange

(Official)

Cash	3mth	Dec 22
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)		
8319.0-8320.0	8383.0-8388.0	8470.0-8480.0
Lead ($/tonne)		
2265.5-2266.0	2240.5-2241.5	2233.0-2238.0
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)		
2492.0-2493.0	2527.5-2528.0	2555.0-2560.0
Alum Hi Gde ($/tonne)		
2164.5-2165.0	2205.0-2206.0	2343.0-2348.0
Nickel ($/tonne)		
19740.0-19745.0	19900.0-19910.0	20990.0-21040.0
Tin ($/tonne)		**15mth**
25500.0-25550.0	25950.0-26000.0	25635.0-25685.0

Gold/Precious metals (US dollars per ounce)

Because of a technical issue, the gold fix prices are from Friday.

Bullion: Open $1923.39

Close $1929.15-1929.33 **High** $1930.44

Low $1923.14

AM $1918.70 **PM** $1927.70

Platinum $ (£)

Silver $23.16 (£18.69)

Palladium $ (£)

European money deposits %

Currency	1mth	3mth	6mth	12mth
Dollar	0.13	0.20	0.29	0.55
Sterling	4.20	5.58	4.74	0.81
Euro	0.10	0.15	0.20	0.50

Money rates %

Base Rates Clearing Banks 5.25 ECB Refi 4.50 US Fed Fund 5.25-5.50

Halifax Mortgage Rate (SVR) 8.74

Sterling spot and forward rates

Mkt Rates for	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Copenhagen	8.6392-8.6690	8.6458-8.6471	141ds	431ds
Euro	1.1632-1.1593	1.1599-1.1597	11pr	34pr
Montreal	1.6686-1.6764	1.6715-1.6718	7ds	22ds
New York	1.2370-1.2410	1.2396-1.2396	0pr	1ds
Oslo	13.333-13.463	13.381-13.387	116ds	341ds
Stockholm	13.827-13.931	13.837-13.842	187ds	538ds
Tokyo	182.74-183.33	183.08-183.08	89ds	266ds
Zurich	1.1083-1.1123	1.1118-1.1122	35ds	105ds

Premium = pr Discount = ds

Dollar rates

Australia	1.5532-1.5535
Canada	1.3485-1.3486
Denmark	6.9751-6.9757
Euro	0.9357-0.9357
Hong Kong	7.8182-7.8185
Japan	147.69-147.70
Malaysia	4.6815-4.6865
Norway	10.795-10.799
Singapore	1.3633-1.3634
Sweden	11.163-11.166
Switzerland	0.8971-0.8972

Other Sterling

Argentina peso	433.78-433.82
Australia dollar	1.9256-1.9257
Bahrain dinar	0.4639-0.4708
Brazil real	6.0092-6.0129
Euro	1.1598-1.1599
Hong Kong dollar	9.6909-9.6920
India rupee	103.22-103.22
Indonesia rupiah	19059-19061
Kuwait dinar KD	0.3817-0.3840
Malaysia ringgit	5.8064-5.8126
New Zealand dollar	2.0950-2.0968
Singapore dollar	1.6898-1.6901
S Africa rand	23.555-23.566
U A E dirham	4.5542-4.5544

Exchange rates

	Bid	Change
Australia $	1.925	
Canada $	1.670	-0.01
Denmark Kr	8.645	-0.02
Euro €	1.160	
Hong Kong $	9.681	-0.02
Hungary	446.125	+1.05
Indonesia	19028.165	-2.84
Israel Shk	4.729	+0.01
Japan Yen	182.823	-0.46
New Zealand $	2.096	
Norway Kr	13.380	+0.03
Poland	5.386	
Russia	119.530	-0.49
S Africa Rd	23.533	-0.14
Sweden Kr	13.862	+0.01
Switzerland Fr	1.112	
Turkey Lira	33.447	+0.01
USA $	1.238	

Rates supplied by Morningstar

MORNINGSTAR® Data as shown is for information purposes only. No offer is made by Morningstar or this publication

Business Equity prices

Dividend yields Please note that the information in the dividend yields column has been suspended due to technical problems at Morningstar, the provider.
12-month high and low High/low prices for UK equities are based on closing prices. Investment trust high and low prices are based on intra-day figures.

Automobiles & parts

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
395⅜	89½	Aston Martin Lag	296⅜	- 29⅜	...	-1.7

Banking & finance

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
236⅝	133	**Abrdn‡**	157¼	- 6¼	...	3.4
9¾	6⅛	Acuity RM♦	6⅜	- ⅜	...	...
2490	1881½	**Admiral‡**	2429	- 7	...	12.3
46¼	14½	ADVFN♦	14½	...	...	2.5
390	255⅛	AJ Bell	295¾	- 3	...	27.7
27847⅝	21609¼	Aon Corpn	27456⅛	+ 302⅞	...	67.0
1075	645	Arbuthnot Bkg♦‡	955	...	...	21.1
12½	7	Argo Group♦	7	...	...	3.2
286⅜	180⅞	Ashmore	192	- ½	...	6.5
1349⅜	1165½	Aus New Z	1337⅜	+ 2½	...	10.4
462⅜	369⅛	**Aviva‡**	396⅜	- 4¼	...	52.1
341½	211¾	Banco Santander	298½	- 7½	...	7.1
3665	1944	Bank of Georgia	3665	- 40	...	11.3
189⅝	133⅞	**Barclays**	158¾	- 2⅝	...	3.8
¼	...	Blue Star Capital♦	...	...	...	2.3
418	283	BP Marsh&Ptnrs♦	385	+ 20	...	10.6
15⅛	6¾	Braveheart Inv♦	11⅝	...	...	0.3
515	513	Brewin Dolphin	515	+ 1	...	28.1
256	166⅞	Bridgepoint‡	188⅝	- 3¾	...	11.7
52½	24½	Cenkos Secs♦	29	...	...	5.9
312½	262½	Chesnara	272	- 3	...	15.1
52¾	9	City of Lon Gp♦	10	+ 1	...	-0.6
470	343½	City Lon Inv Gp	400	+ 2	...	9.3
1131	796½	Close Bros	828	- 12½	...	6.1
268	100¾	CMC Markets	105⅛	+ ⅛	...	3.2
1027¾	616¼	Commerzbk	839⅜	- 12	...	43.0
1061¾	653⅜	Deutsche Bk	866⅞	- 16⅞	...	10.1
235¼	133⅞	Direct Line Ins	180¼	- 3	...	7.4
78⅝	45⅛	EFG-Hermes Hldg	49¼	- 3⅛	...	3.1
195	122½	EPE Special Opps♦	167½	+ 5	...	9.3
1219⅝	843¼	FBD‡	1073½	...	...	4.7
70	65	Fiske♦	65	...	...	11.5
75	53½	Frenkel Topping♦	58	+ 1½	...	33.7
1034	602	Georgia Capital	1034	...	...	2.8
1067½	670	Gresham House♦	1067½	...	...	42.8
506	394	H&T Group♦‡	414	+ 1	...	13.2
55½	33	Hansard Global	41⅝	...	...	14.3
949½	736	**Hargreaves Lansdown**	765	- 11¾	...	13.6
175	117½	Helios Under♦	122½	- 2½	...	...
654⅞	442⅛	**HSBC‡**	623	- 6¼	...	13.6
836½	632½	IG Group	670½	- 14	...	6.8
883	493	Impax♦	493	- 6	...	16.2
1511½	953⅛	Intermed Capital	1322½	- 44½	...	7.5
128	64⅜	IPF‡	121	- 1½	...	6.8
164½	121½	International Public P'ship‡	128½	+ ⅛	...	16.5
546⅜	351½	Investec	452	- 7⅛	...	11.3
340	253	Investment Co	335	...	...	12.0
75⅜	52	IP Group	59¾	+ ⅝	...	2.2
195	105	Jarvis Securities♦	116½	...	...	8.3
151	83¾	Jupiter Fund Mgmt	96½	- 3¼	...	3.5
95¼	55⅞	Just Group‡	73¾	- 1½	...	...
664	461¾	Lancashire Holdings	599	- 13	...	...
265¾	204	**Legal & Gen‡**	224⅞	- 4⅜	...	6.9
...	...	Liberty Group	502⅝	- 2⅝	...	...
1290	587½	Liontrust	604½	- 9	...	7.5
54	31	Livermore Invs♦	36½	...	...	2.3
53⅞	39	**Lloyds Banking Group**	42⅛	- 1	...	5.8
32½	19⅜	LMS Capital	21½	- ⅜	...	9.3
8774	7104	**Lond Stk Ex Gp‡**	8390	+ 48	...	85.7
219¼	159⅞	**M&G**	198½	- 4⅞	...	62.0
286¾	202	Man‡	213⅛	- 1½	...	8.5
29	8¼	Manx Fin♦	22	...	...	11.1
2¾	1	Marechale Cap♦	1¾	...	...	0.8
16017⅛	12034½	Marsh McLn	15974¾	+ 127⅝	...	33.2
670	530	Mattioli Woods♦	630	+ 10	...	...
17¾	7½	Metal Tiger♦	9	+ ¾	...	3.5
153⅛	69	Metro Bank	71½	- 3½	...	-0.5
1700½	1306¾	Nat Aust Bk	1536¼	- 5⅛	...	15.2
309⅞	212⅜	**NatWest**	232	- 4½	...	9.1
341	170⅜	Numis♦	335	...	...	6.8
568½	320⅛	Onesavings Bank‡	320⅛	- 3⅜	...	4.2
611	377½	PayPoint‡	547	- 8	...	17.1
3⅛	¼	PCF Group♦	⅞	+ ¼	...	-0.4
647	504¾	**Phoenix**	526⅜	- 11½	...	-6.0
1371½	797½	**Prudential‡**	914⅛	- 27⅜	...	14.8
2¼	⅞	Quantum Blockchain♦	1⅛	...	...	-6.7
107¼	71¼	Quilter‡	88½	- 1½	...	63.2
87¾	44	Randall & Quilter♦	48	- 2⅜	...	71.5
2220	1570	Rathbone Grp	1722	- 14	...	13.3
¾	½	RiverFort Global Opps♦	½	...	...	1.7
2050	1395	Rockwood Strategic	1710	- 20	...	2.5
2570	1905	S & U	2250	+ 100	...	10.6
1⅝	⅜	Sancus Lending Grp♦	½	...	...	-0.2
50	40	Schroder REIT	40	- ⅜	...	4.2
506¾	358¾	**Schroders‡**	406½	- 8	...	1.8
1304½	835½	**St James Place‡**	835½	- 28⅜	...	15.9
790¾	519½	**Stand Chart‡**	737⅛	- 6	...	16.5
8½	5½	Starvest♦	5½	...	...	-0.9
60	24½	STM Group♦‡	60	...	...	23.1
4152⅞	3218⅞	Sun Life Can	4080	- 16¾	...	10.4
9	5½	Tavistock Inv♦	5¾	...	...	0.9



12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
2880	1634	TBC Bank Group‡	2880	+ 10	...	8.4
12¼	3½	Tern♦	4½	...	...	3.3
57	48	Thames Ventures VCT	48	...	...	6.4
29¼	15¼	Time Finance♦	27½	...	...	16.7
243¾	103	Vanquis‡	120⅜	- 2⅜	...	2.2
1245	900	Volvere♦	1085	- 25	...	...
34½	7	WH Ireland♦	7	...	...	3.9
30	23	Walker Crips Grp	23	...	...	65.7
3912½	2922⅝	Wells Fargo	3502	+ 32⅝	...	9.5
1272½	1040¼	Westpac	1131⅝	+ 1	...	15.3
31	21½	Worsley Investors Ltd	27⅝	- ⅛	...	86.5
41183⅛	35031¼	Zurich Fincl	38349⅞	+ 53⅞	...	14.9

Construction & property

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
183½	135	Alumasc♦	162½	...	...	8.2
11¼	8¾	Aseana Props	8⅞	- ⅜	...	-4.4
61	43⅛	Assura‡	44½	- ⅞	...	8.9
2¾	1¾	Aukett Swanke♦	1¾	...	...	-2.6
393⅜	294½	Balfour Beatty	328	- 4⅜	...	15.5
506⅜	323⅜	**Barratt Devs**	446⅞	- 13⅜	...	6.9
2500	1586½	Bellway	2156	- 72	...	6.4
4504	3165	**Berkeley**	4085	- 124	...	10.6
1290	987	Big Yellow Group	1000	- 10	...	6.5
455	181½	Billington Hldgs♦	345	+ 5	...	28.0
277	198	Boot (Henry)	204	+ 2	...	10.9
471⅜	297¼	Br Land	308⅛	- 14¾	...	42.2
167½	120	Caledonian Tst♦	160	...	...	31.9
61⅜	43¼	Cap & Regnl‡	56½	+ ½	...	-0.5
2550	2350	Cardiff Prop	2450	...	...	26.6
24	1¾	Carecapital♦#	1⅞	...	...	-0.2
155	106	Clarke T‡	135¼	+ 1	...	9.7
238	191⅝	Countryside Partner	229¾	+ 14	...	16.7
28⅛	6	Craven House♦	11⅝	- 1½	...	-0.2
4674	2858½	**CRH**	4290	- 132	...	17.8
2726	1812	Derwent London‡	1833	- 58	...	8.1
4¾	3¼	Dolphin Capital♦	4¾	...	...	-3.2
28	17½	First Prop♦	17½	...	...	...
45½	34½	Fletcher King♦	38½	+ 2	...	...
42	27¼	Foxtons Group	37⅜	- ¼	...	...
210	145	Galliford Try	203	+ 1½	...	45.1
349	252½	Genuit Group‡	325	- 6	...	19.7
490	335	Gleeson (MJ)	394	- 12	...	6.1
988⅝	630½	Grafton	894¾	- 19¼	...	10.3
271¾	205⅜	Grainger	236	- 7	...	14.6
603½	382¾	Great Portland	405⅜	- 15⅛	...	-5.0
30½	17⅛	Hammerson‡	23¾	- ¾	...	-2.5
127½	101	Harworth Gp	107	+ 2	...	3.7
600	400	Heath (Samuel)♦‡	400	...	...	8.2
389	219	Helical PLC	222	- 8½	...	5.3
1025	750	Highcroft Invs	845	...	...	3.6
189¾	135¾	Ibstock	143½	- 3	...	18.6
224	176	James Halstead♦	215	- 10	...	22.9
856	591	Keller	745	- 20	...	8.6
6541¾	3861¾	Kingspan Group	6214⅛	- 221⅞	...	24.4
743⅛	485¼	**Land Sec‡**	574½	- 18⅛	...	...
89½	58	Life Science Reit	73¾	+ 5¾	...	...
22	10½	Lon & Assoc	10¾	...	...	-1.4
207	161¾	Londonmetric Property‡	170	- 4¾	...	3.6
62	45¼	Macau Prop Op	49½	...	...	-6.4
366½	225⅜	Marshalls	270	- ¾	...	9.8
101	74	Michelmersh♦	88½	- ½	...	14.1
2055	1392	Morgan Sindall	2040	- 30	...	9.9
12500	10550	Mountview	10650	- 50	...	13.2
94½	68¼	NewRiver REIT	82⅝	+ 1⅛	...	-2.8
260	195	Palace Capital	245	- 2	...	11.7
335	255	Panther Securities♦	265	+ 10	...	2.4
1531	968½	**Persimmon**	1029½	- 49½	...	4.1
3½	1⅜	Pires Investments♦	1½	...	...	-3.3
45	30	Plaza Cent	30	...	...	...
128⅞	88¾	Primary Health Properties	95⅜	- 1⅞	...	9.7
35¼	27½	Real Estate Invs♦	27½	- 1	...	3.6
545	372½	Redrow	493⅜	- 11	...	6.1
1074	770	Safestore	770	- 24	...	4.3
1055	763½	Savills‡	894½	- 34½	...	8.9
6¼	5⅜	Secure Property♦	6	+ ⅝	...	15.8
920⅛	694	**Segro‡**	719⅜	- 19¾	...	2.1
44⅜	27¾	SIG	36¾	- ⅛	...	...
63	37⅜	SigmaRoc♦	56½	- ⅜	...	...
91¾	66½	Sirius Real Estate	87½	- ¾	...	6.8
173½	160½	Smart (J)	166	...	...	4.5
50	26	Steppe Cement♦	26	+ ½	...	5.9
128¼	85	**Taylor Wimpey**	115¾	- 3	...	7.6
170½	117	Town Centre	123	+ 1½	...	4.8
1082½	738	Travis Perkins	811½	- 20⅛	...	7.9
168¼	123½	Tritax Big Box Reit	136⅝	- 4½	...	2.4
78	50¾	Tritax Eurobox	53½	- 2	...	...
318	184½	Tyman	295	- 8	...	11.6
1053	791½	**Unite‡**	898½	- 24½	...	10.4
946	519½	Vistry Group	920	- 21	...	8.0
142⅜	77½	Warehouse REIT‡	78¾	- 3⅞	...	1.8
537	343⅜	Workspace Grp	484½	- 14	...	-7.2
700	622½	Wynnstay Props♦	690	...	...	5.0

Consumer goods

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
5	1	Agriterra♦	1¼	...	...	-0.1
39½	25½	Airea♦	29	...	...	10.7
880	652	Anglo-Eastern‡	750	+ 4	...	6.8
292½	147½	Animalcare♦	175	...	...	...
2114	1237	**AB Foods**	2058	- 23	...	34.0
121	86	Bakkavor Group‡	95⅛	...	...	9.9
561	432	Barr (AG)	487	+ 2½	...	17.2
3¾	⅝	Bidstack Group♦	⅝	...	...	-0.5
39	24½	Brand Architekts♦	28	...	...	-1.2
3481½	2484½	**Brit Amer Tob**	2698	- 4	...	9.1
936	707½	Britvic	878	- 8	...	19.9
2641	1636	**Burberry**	2152	- 6	...	18.5
183¾	123⅜	C&C Grp	132	- 1	...	-7.8
5½	1	Capital Metals♦	1	...	...	-0.2
149¾	92	Carr's Grp‡	125½	+ ¼	...	15.4
512	255	Character Grp♦	265	- 11	...	4.7
1640	1070	Churchill China♦	1315	...	...	...
2565	1840	**Coca Cola HBC**	2275	- 10	...	18.1
840	610	Colefax♦‡	760	...	...	13.4
3572	2586	Cranswick	3560	- 12	...	18.8
329	164	Devro	329	...	...	17.8
3857½	3147½	**Diageo‡**	3150	- 12	...	24.2
1	⅜	Distil♦	½	...	...	12.5
908	670	Evans (M.P.)♦	724	...	...	6.2
103½	77	Finsbury Food♦	89	...	...	10.6
11700	5690	Games Workshop	10930	- 560	...	30.1
1369¼	903½	Glanbia‡	1369¼	+ 66⅜	...	33.7
92¼	60¾	Greencore	76⅞	- 2⅛	...	15.3
348	214	Headlam	231	+ 1	...	9.9
781	500	Hilton Food	775	+ 5	...	16.1
29	16	Hornby♦	16½	...	...	78.5
2185	1695	**Imperial Brands‡**	1758½	+ 2½	...	5.8
1½	1	J Lewis Hford♦	1¼	+ ¼	...	7.9
8518¾	6995⅝	Kerry Gp	7146⅜	+ 144⅜	...	19.8
44⅜	19	McBride	44	+ 3½	...	-7.8
295	200	Mulberry Group♦	200	...	...	8.2
1150	958	Nichols♦	1035	- 22½	...	...
223	143	Norcros	147½	+ ½	...	4.6
374¼	271	Origin Ents♦	274⅛	- 2½	...	8.6
11⅝	...	Pittards♦#	5⅜	+ 1	...	2.5
512½	282	Portmeirion♦	285	...	...	12.1
⅞	½	Provexis♦	½	...	...	0.3
221	153¾	PZ Cussons	164	- 2½	...	18.9
125	50¾	REA	52¼	...	...	-4.1
2	⅞	Real Gd Fd♦	1⅛	...	...	0.1
320	200	Tandem♦	210	...	...	3.0
724	493	Treatt	493	...	...	19.7
3¼	1¾	Ukrproduct Gp♦	2¼	- ⅛	...	-1.5
5051	4451	Unilever (NV)	...	...	...	...
4443½	3838	**Unilever**	4103	- ½	...	21.0
722	400	Victoria♦	635	+ 3	...	...

Engineering

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
...	...	Ass Br Eng#	15	...	...	-3.5
1200	624	Avon Rubber	626	- 8	...	...
395	268½	Babcock	380⅛	- 10	...	-2.3
1055	714	**BAE**	1055	+ 4	...	19.2
2150	1200	Braime A N/V♦	1475	...	...	16.6
1850	1650	Braime Group♦	1850	+ 50	...	20.8
580	470	Caffyns	515	...	...	7.4
4½	1⅛	Cap XX Ld♦	1½	...	...	-3.3
419	279	Castings	336	- 5	...	16.2
4⅞	2⅞	Chamberlin♦	3	...	...	-0.2
34	14	Checkit♦	29	- ½	...	-3.5
540	391	Cohort♦‡	499	+ 10	...	44.3
400	249	Crestchic Plc♦	399	...	...	...
1335	815	Dewhurst♦	855	...	...	9.8
325	190	Dialight	190	- 44	...	...
1254	813¼	Electrolux 'B'	838½	- 11½	...	6.3
182½	71	Feedback♦	79½	...	...	...
664	426	Gooch Hsego♦	512	+ 6	...	37.9
5540	2625	Goodwin‡	5540	+ 300	...	30.6
2498	1974	**Halma**	2110	- 37	...	30.5
1810	893	Hill & Smith	1730	- 50	...	40.7
89	61	Holders Tech♦‡	65	+ 4	...	3.9
2¼	¾	Image Scan♦	1¾	...	...	10.5
1680	1089	**IMI**	1483	- 29	...	20.2
...	...	Inspirit Energy♦	...	...	...	...
10200	6740	Judges Scientific♦	8800	...	...	44.4
101½	72½	LPA♦	87½	...	...	...
...	...	Meggitt	798¾	+ ⅛	...	...
543⅛	200⅜	**Melrose‡**	500⅜	- 5	...	...
323½	217	Morgan Advanced	248	- 3	...	10.4
325	187½	Mpac♦	194	+ 2½	...	5.0
745	318	MS Intl♦	715	...	...	...
2855	1720	Oxford Inst‡	2185	- 110	...	29.8
1792⅜	1044	Philips El nv	...	...	...	...
15½	11¼	PipeHawk♦	11½	...	...	24.6
67½	23⅛	Pressure Tech♦	31½	...	...	-2.6
4232	3342	Renishaw	3684	- 164	...	21.0
31	20½	Renold♦	29⅝	- ¼	...	10.5
225¾	66⅛	**Rolls-Royce**	224⅜	- 3	...	...
1⅝	⅝	Ross Gp	⅝	...	...	-1.6
342⅛	229½	Rotork‡	301½	- 8	...	32.7
200	100	SDI Group♦	104	- 3½	...	17.1
181⅛	111	Senior	163¾	- 4⅛	...	28.5
75	48	Severfield‡	61⅜	- ½	...	10.9
14	2⅜	Six Hundred♦	2⅜	...	...	14.0
1559⅜	1050	SKF B	1341⅜	+ 17¼	...	9.9
300	225	Slingsby (HC)♦	265	...	...	4.3
1797½	1470½	**Smiths**	1674½	- 5½	...	26.6
1435	986	Solid State♦‡	1285	- 10	...	30.9
450	257	Somero Enter♦	300	...	...	6.6
3841	2690	Spectris	3342	- 32	...	10.9
12350	9702	**Spirax-Sarco**	9824	- 90	...	30.9
51½	26½	Surface Trsfms♦	30½	...	...	...
4	2	Tanfield♦	4	...	...	...
440	345½	Thorpe FW♦	405	+ 5	...	28.1
2⅛	⅝	TP Group♦	2⅛	...	...	-3.3
102½	59	Transense Tech♦	100	- ½	...	73.5
...	...	Ultra Electrncs	3500	+ 6	...	37.4
454⅛	302⅛	Vesuvius	440⅜	+ 7⅛	...	11.7
1388	500	Videndum	515	- 17	...	9.4
335	202	Volex♦	314½	- 8½	...	17.1
2021	1404½	**Weir**	1923½	- 32½	...	32.4
2680	1464	XP Power‡	2280	+ 45	...	12.1
150	75	Zytronic♦	77½	...	...	25.8

Health

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
1454	1103	Abcam♦	1226	+ 123	...	...
290½	177⅛	AdvancedMedical♦	183⅜	+ 1¾	...	28.8
19¾	⅞	Allergy Therap♦	2¾	...	...	-3.3
70½	11	Angle♦	14¾	- 1½	...	-2.0
510	178½	Anpario♦	230	+ 2½	...	12.1
12294	9656	**AstraZeneca**	10728	- 212	...	...
248½	196⅝	**Convatec‡**	221	- 3⅛	...	51.6
43	25⅜	Creighton	31	- ½	...	5.9
3820	2520	Dechra Pharma	3816	+ 4	...	56.9
1½	⅛	Deltex Medical♦	⅛	...	...	-1.0
23	10½	e-Therapeutics♦	13¾	+ ⅝	...	...
130	82½	Eco Animal Hlth♦	113	- 7	...	13.7
51	24⅝	EKF Diagnostics♦	25	- 1⅛	...	7.0
65	35¾	Futura Medical♦	50	- 2⅛	...	...
3272	2062	Genus	2104	- 48	...	37.4
1523	1296	**GSK‡**	1505⅜	- 4⅛	...	17.3
⅜	¼	Gunsynd♦	¼	...	...	3.1
353½	265⅜	**Haleon‡**	327⅝	- 2	...	...
2205	1190½	Hikma Pharms	2100	+ 37	...	15.7
335	134½	Hutchmed China♦	259	+ 6	...	...
4¾	1½	ImmuPharma♦	2	...	...	-0.6
7025	1365	Indivior	1753	- 56	...	...
88½	42	Inspiration Health♦	44½	...	...	6.8
38	17½	IXICO♦	19⅛	- ⅛	...	6.1
501	491½	Mediclinic	501	+ ½	...	31.3
3½	1¼	N4 Pharma♦	1¼	...	...	-1.5

Investment companies

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	Dis(-) or Pm
2095	1044½	**3I Group**	2047	- 37	...	14.2
346	276⅝	3i Infrastructure	305	- 5½	...	-7.5
1428	1066	Aberforth Smlr	1220	- 10	...	-13.5
99	78	abrdnDivInc&Grwth	84¾	+ 1⅜	...	-27.2
1070¼	884	Alliance	1056	- 8	...	-5.4
457	338¼	Asia Dragon Tr	360	- 2	...	-16.1
220	171½	Athelney Trust	195	...	...	-8.7
206½	171¾	AVI Global Trust	201	- ½	...	-11.0
330	206¼	Baillie Gifford Ch Gr	215	- 1	...	-12.4
102⅛	73½	BaillieGifford Eu Gr	85⅜	- ⅞	...	-13.6
829	692	Baillie Gifford JpnTr	725	- 6	...	-9.5
163¾	125⅜	Baillie Gifford SN	131¾	- 1⅛	...	-12.4
180¾	139⅜	Baillie Gifford UK Gr	160⅜	- 1⅜	...	-13.9
98	64	Bal Comm Prop	67½	- 1¼	...	-41.1
107	90⅞	Bankers Inv Trst	98⅛	- ⅞	...	-12.6
5232	334	BH Macro	353½	- 11	...	-8.6
1008	745⅜	Biotech Growth	777	- 18	...	-7.0
149½	108	BlckRck Com Inc	120	...	...	-9.9
148	123	BlckRck Fro Inv	142½	+ ½	...	-9.9
566	396	BlckRck Grt Euro	514	- 17	...	-3.6
206	164	BlckRck Inc & Gwth	179½	- 1½	...	-13.9
449	331½	BlckRck Latin Am	407½	+ ½	...	-14.3
1650	1162	BlckRck Smlr	1266	- 2	...	-14.2
215	178	BlckRck Sustain Amer	183	+ 1	...	-9.4
670	477⅞	BlckRck Throgmorton	564	- 5	...	-7.8
774	538	BlckRck Wld Min	603	- 7	...	-1.4
1321⅜	1115	Brown Adv US sm	1190	+ 15	...	-16.7
1115	888	Brunner	1070	...	...	-13.3
4065	3015	Caledonia Inv	3480	- 20	...	-31.0
432	366½	City of Lon IT	402	- 3	...	0.9
121	60	Crystal Amber Fd♦	65	...	...	-33.4
534	384	CT Priv Eq Ord	497	- 1	...	-26.7
96	72	CT Property	73½	- 1¼	...	-14.5
317	256	CT UK Cap&Inc	298	...	...	-2.9
93	77	CT UK HIT B	81	...	...	-7.5
89	71	CT UK HIT	82	- ½	...	-5.8
356	294	CT UK HIT UNIT	319	...	...	-8.9
590	476	Dunedin Entp	552½	- 5	...	-10.3
690	537	Edinburgh IT	671	- 5	...	-9.0
193	135⅛	Edin Wwide	147⅜	- 1½	...	-15.5
336	273⅛	EP Global Opp	308	- 2	...	-15.3
97¾	74½	European Assets	84½	- 1½	...	-7.7
818	608	European Opp Trust	802	- 12	...	-10.0
992	825⅝	**F&C Invest Tr**	895	- 12	...	-7.9
536	413½	Fidlty Asian Val	518	...	...	-7.0
299⅜	181⅞	Fidelity China Sp	210	- 1	...	-10.7
649⅞	552⅝	FdltyEmrgMkt	597⅜	- 6½	...	-13.9
362	258½	Fidelity European Trust	346	- 4	...	-4.7
187	154	Fidlty Jap Tru	166½	- 2½	...	-11.3
293½	232	Fidlty Spec Val	272½	- 4½	...	-7.4
923	760⅛	Fins Gwth & Inc	870	- 11	...	-4.0
106½	68⅛	GCP Infrastructure	71⅜	- ½	...	-34.4
39	24	Gldn Prosp Prc Mtl	27	- ¼	...	-18.7
168½	130⅜	Greencoat UK Wind	140⅜	- ½	...	-14.8
201¼	161	Hansa Investment	184	...	...	-41.7
193⅞	160	Hansa Inv Co 'A'	182	+ 1	...	-43.0
2450	1900	Hbrvest Glbl Pt Eq	2340	...	...	-39.4
166¾	120½	Hend Euro Foc	159½	- 1½	...	-11.3
181	137¼	Hend High Inc	164	- ½	...	-1.7
907	674¼	Hend Smlr	708	- 14	...	-13.8
1966	1540	Herald	1732	- 40	...	-13.5
420	316	HgCapital Trust	401	- 13	...	-12.7
178⅛	119⅝	HICL Infra	125¾	- 1⅛	...	-22.8
500	216	Highbridge Tactical	425	...	...	61.1
1223¾	928	ICG Ent Tr	1174	- 16	...	-36.3
462½	373⅛	Impax Env Mkts	382	- 1½	...	-6.6
374	280	Invesco Asia Tr	321	+ 1	...	-12.2
173	141	Invesco Bond Inc	163½	- ½	...	1.4
147	111	IPST Bal	117½	...	...	-22.6
258½	200	IPST Gbl Eq	244	...	...	-13.5
101	88	IPST Managed	94½	...	...	-14.1
177	141	IPST UK Eq	154	- 1½	...	-15.4
478	373½	IP UKSmallerCos	417	- 6	...	-7.8
830	657½	JPM American	815	...	...	-0.8
402¼	294½	JPM Asia Gro & Inc	353	+ 1	...	-9.1
419	237½	JPM China	246	- 1	...	-11.2
722	624	JPM Claverhs	664	- 10	...	-5.2
804	514	JPMorgan Emerg E & ME & Africa	648	- 1¾	...	204.2
120⅜	91	JPM Em Mkts	106⅜	- ¾	...	-7.5
449	339	JPM Euro disc	376½	- 11	...	-11.7
142½	108	JPM GEMI	125½	- 2½	...	-9.9
484	394	JPM GG&I	476	- 3	...	1.9
902	764	JPM Indian	882	+ 4	...	-17.9
347	297	JPM Jap Sml Co	312½	- 2½	...	-12.8
521	416	JPM Japan	487	- 1½	...	-7.8
974¾	735	JPM Mid Cap	886	- 24	...	-13.3
98	85¼	JPM Multi-asset G&I	92¾	- ½	...	-2.9
303	230	JPM Smllr Co	263	- 2	...	-14.7
228½	180½	Keystone Positive Change Inv plc	211	- 2	...	-13.9
871	649	Law Debenture	813	- 13	...	2.5
135	99	Lowland	114	- 1	...	-13.6
223	156¾	Majedie	182	- 2	...	-25.4
358	272⅛	M Currie Port	319	- 4	...	-1.6
104½	85	Marwyn Val In	89	- 2½	...	-45.5
222	158¼	Mercantile IT	196½	- 4⅞	...	-13.8
606	480	Merchants	542	- 12	...	1.1
732	639¾	Mid Wynd	717	- 6	...	-1.6
1056	906	Monks Inv Tst	964	- 11	...	-12.8
151⅛	104⅛	Montanaro Eur Sml	121	- 1½	...	-12.6
886	715	Murray Income Trust	835	- 12	...	-8.1
275¾	225½	Murray Int	245	- 2	...	-6.0
80⅛	70⅛	Nb Global Floating	72¼	+ ¾	...	-11.2
384	326	Pacific Assets	376	- 1	...	-6.0
293	229⅛	Pantheon Int	291	+ 1½	...	-36.0
3115	2565	**Pershing Sq**	3004	- 24	...	-35.3
487½	458⅞	Personal Assets	467	- 2	...	-0.7
2340	1697½	Polar Cap Tech	2230	- 10	...	-13.7
192½	114½	Prem Glb & Inf	120	...	...	-10.9
148⅛	103½	Renewables Inf	106¾	- 1⅜	...	-18.0
2400	1784	RIT Cap Ptnr	1964	- 16	...	-17.4
736	510	Riverstone	598	- 10	...	-52.8
457	366½	Schroder TotRt	412	- 1	...	-5.7
549¾	446	Schrd Asia Pac	495½	- 6½	...	-10.9
324	254½	Schrod Inc Gwth	277	- 2	...	-8.3
243	190	Schrod Jap Gwth	241	...	...	-10.4
626	454	Schrod UKMid	546	- 10	...	-12.1
19⅛	11½	Schroder UK PP Tr	14⅛	...	...	-43.2
543	434	Scot American	506	- 4	...	1.5
837	604¾	**Scot Mtge**	689½	- 11⅛	...	-17.7
236	205	Secs Tst Scot	224	+ 2	...	-1.1
94¾	71	Sequoia Eco	82½	- ½	...	-10.8
249½	195⅛	Temple Bar	237½	- 2	...	-5.8
166	130	Tplton Emg Mkt	150½	- ½	...	-14.0
162¾	122	The Glbl Smaller	142½	- 3⅜	...	-12.2
¼	...	Tiger Royal and Inv♦	⅛	...	...	66.6
350⅝	254	TR Property	284½	- 3½	...	-8.2
74	64⅜	Troy Inc&Gth	70⅛	- 1	...	-1.2
200	122	Utilico Ord	132	...	...	-36.6
234	197½	Utilico Emerging Mkt	223	- 1	...	-15.4
689	500	Vietnam Ent Inv	607	- 11	...	-18.4
237	199¾	Witan	229½	- 3½	...	-7.4
345	296	Ww Health	309	- 5	...	-8.3

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
71½	34¾	NIOX Group♦	69⅛	+1⅛	...	69.2
93.95	73.32	Novartis	CHF 92.02	-0.24	...	10.5
4	2	Omega Diags♦	2⅛	...	...	-0.8
14	1¾	Ovoca Bio♦	1¾	...	...	-0.5
562	244	Oxford Biomedica	244	-15	...	10.9
5	⅞	Physiomics♦	1⅞	...	...	-7.3
8½	3¼	Proteome Scies♦	6¼	-⅛	...	...
6570	5556	**Reckitt Benckiser**	5830	+68	...	...
63½	15⅛	RUA Life Sciences♦	17½	...	...	-1.6
217½	70	Sareum Hldgs♦	77½	-½	...	...
1314½	984½	**Smith & Neph**	1048½	-16	...	23.7
250	203	Spire Hcare	222	+½	...	...
23½	6¾	Synairgen♦	8⅜	-⅛	...	-0.3
70	48	Tissue Regenix♦	54	...	...	...
36	7¾	Totally♦‡	7¾	...	...	12.3
435	295	Tristel♦	405	+25	...	83.5
18½	6	ValiRx♦	6½	...	...	...

Industrials

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
107	54⅜	Accsys Tech♦	72	+½	...	...
4650	3342⅞	BASF	3907⅛	-81	...	7.7
5377⅛	4079⅞	Bayer DM50	4194⅝	-65	...	48.9
175	46½	Biome Tech♦	165	+7½	...	-5.5
2⅝	1½	Byotrol♦	1½	...	...	...
...	...	Camb Gbl Timber♦	6¾	...	...	-9.0
79	50⅞	Coats Grp	75	-1⅝	...	16.7
7218	4937	**Croda**‡	4947	-59	...	21.5
1020	575	Cropper (James)♦‡	780	...	...	23.7
129	87⅝	Elementis	113½	-2½	...	...
17½	11	Hardide♦	11½	...	...	-2.2
2373	1543	**Johnson Math**	1708	-32½	...	21.5
1601	1180	**Mondi**‡	1380½	+43½	...	10.5
110	77½	Robinson♦	92½	...	...	...
368½	241¾	**DS Smith**‡	292	-3	...	16.6
743⅞	535¼	Swire Pacific	570⅛	-19⅝	...	...
16½	6⅝	Symph Environ♦	7	...	...	...
167⅜	44	Synthomer	44	-3¾	...	0.9
2651⅝	2024⅛	Takeda Pharm	2651⅝	+30	...	14.8
5¾	1⅜	Velocys♦	1⅜	...	...	-1.7
1913	1338	Victrex	1422	-42	...	16.9
640	397½	Wynnstay Group♦	400	...	...	9.1
410	233	Zotefoams‡	345	-7	...	20.7

Leisure

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
130	51⅝	888 Hldgs	120	-4⅝	...	8.8
846	542	Accesso Tech♦	741	+31	...	19.5
680	370	Best of the Best♦	530	...	...	5.9
1356½	501⅜	Carnival	1092	-33	...	-1.7
132½	108	Celtic♦	127½	...	...	12.6
7	¼	Cineworld#	⅜	...	...	...
424½	215⅛	Domino's Pizza‡	387½	-6¾	...	19.7
1587½	1083	**Entain**‡	1114½	-39	...	24.9
16725	9694	**Flutter Ent**	14735	-195	...	...
38	23	Gaming Realms♦	36	+1⅛	...	...
290	290	Heavitree♦	290	...	...	17.4
185	65	Heavitree A♦	150	...	...	9.0
145	80	Hermes Pacific♦	80	-10	...	...
6242	4275	**InterContinental Hotels**‡	6224	-72	...	58.3
1⅛	¾	Minoan Gp♦	¾	...	...	-5.8
236⅛	102	Mitch & Butlers	220	-8	...	...
189½	82¾	On The Beach	116	-2¾	...	-6.1
1400	1005	PPHE Hotels	1070	-10	...	-8.7
104⅜	52⅜	Rank Grp	85⅛	+⅛	...	11.5
51⅛	26⅝	Restaurant Gp	49¼	+¼	...	-9.2
50½	32½	Rotala♦	42	-½	...	...
175	...	Sportech♦	74½	-3	...	...
281⅛	184¾	SSP	238½	-5¾	...	-4.6
4	1¾	Tasty♦	2¼	...	...	3.1
295	62½	Tintra♦#	67½	...	...	-1.1
704⅜	290⅝	Tui	467	-15	...	-4.8
2⅜	1⅛	Webis Holdings♦	1⅜	...	...	...
783½	389¾	Wetherspoon JD	706	-2½	...	-6.5
3641	2285	**Whitbread**	3628	-50	...	...
1240	870	Young & Co - A♦	1095	+10	...	...
892	564	Young & Co - N/V♦	754	-31	...	...

Media

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
88	68	Aeorema Comms♦	76½	...	...	21.1
52	21	Altitude Group♦	47½	...	...	...
102½	63½	Arcontech Grp♦	101½	+½	...	14.0
281	176⅛	Ascential	192¾	-12¾	...	...
660½	486⅛	**Auto Trader**‡	600½	-18¾	...	29.6
492	366	Bloomsbury Pub	400	-14½	...	16.4
8	⅜	Bonhill Group♦	⅝	-⅛	...	-1.5
172½	87	Catalyst Media♦	117½	...	...	...
¼	...	Catenae♦	⅛	...	...	-0.2
...	...	DCD Media♦#	100	-30	...	5.0
58½	43	Ebiquity♦	46	...	...	...
1749	643	Future	736½	-55	...	12.6
196	144⅞	GlobalData♦‡	157½	-½	...	7.8
120¾	50	Hyve Group	120½	...	...	...
196	69⅜	IG Design Grp♦	142½	...	...	20.8
776	506½	**Informa**	749¾	-10⅛	...	...
90	55⅛	ITV	70½	-2⅛	...	7.5
9¾	4⅛	Jaywing♦	4¾	...	...	...
3¾	1½	Live Company Gp♦#	2	...	...	-0.4
171	83½	ME Group	161	+1¾	...	28.1
...	...	Mediazest♦	...	...	...	-4.5
50	26½	Merit Grp♦	50	+2	...	...
42½	1½	Mirada♦	1½	-1⅜	...	...
58	38½	Mission Group♦	41	-½	...	6.9
280⅜	172⅜	Moneysupermarket	244⅛	-10	...	24.9
1744	1206	News Corp A	1615⅞	-22⅛	...	26.3
1782	1231¾	News Corp B	1672	-22½	...	27.2
1112	554	Next 15 Group♦	613	-27	...	...
995⅛	754	**Pearson**‡	880¾	-13⅜	...	42.1
4⅜	2	Primorus Inv♦	2⅞	...	...	5.3
198	107½	Quarto	110	...	...	6.1
120⅝	66¼	Reach‡	75	-1¼	...	83.3
1⅝	¾	REACT Grp♦	1⅝	...	...	23.9
2788	2157	**Relx**	2788	-12	...	36.7
615⅜	445⅜	**Rightmove**	544¾	-16¾	...	30.8
101⅞	65	SpaceandPeople♦	79½	...	...	...
315	190	STV Group	207	-2	...	5.0
230	122½	System1 Group♦	215	...	...	10.2
2994½	2272½	21st Cent Fox Inc A	2568⅝	-6⅜	...	14.0
2771¾	2143⅜	21st Cent Fox Inc B	2356⅛	-10½	...	12.9
...	...	Vela Tech♦	...	...	...	6.3
...	...	Wilmington	312	-8	...	19.8
1051½	731¾	**WPP**	752½	-20	...	14.3
112½	77½	Zinc Media♦	87½	...	...	-5.5

Natural resources

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
¾	⅜	ADM Energy♦	½	...	...	...
...	...	Advance Energy♦#	⅛	...	...	-0.1
29½	11¼	AFC Energy♦	15½	+⅜	...	...
31	20½	Afentra PLC♦#	28⅜	+4	...	...
⅛	...	Alba Mineral Res♦	...	...	...	-1.8
½	⅛	Alien Metals♦	⅛	...	...	-6.2
88¾	52⅜	Alumina	54½	+¾	...	11.3
1¼	⅞	Aminex	1	...	...	-6.3
1¾	...	Amur Mins Corp♦#	...	...	...	-2.0
736195⅛	2986	Anglo Amer Plat	2986	-73⅝	...	2.1
3672½	1970	**Anglo American**‡	2268	-34½	...	4.4
121	50½	Anglo Asian Mng♦	69	...	...	5.9
1805	1042½	**Antofagasta**‡	1455	-36½	...	15.0
4⅜	2⅜	Arc Minerals♦	3	...	...	2.2
3½	2	Ariana Res♦	2⅝	...	...	3.6
⅝	¼	Arkle Resources♦	¼	...	...	-1.0
2	¾	Armadale Cap♦	¾	...	...	...
1⅝	⅞	Asiamet Rsrcs♦	1⅛	...	...	...
380	188	Atalaya Mine♦‡	345	-6	...	4.3
¼	...	Baron Oil♦	...	...	...	...
4¾	1⅜	Beowulf Mining♦	1½	...	...	-6.5
...	...	Bezant Res♦	...	...	...	-0.7
2855	2052	BHP Group‡	2361½	-20½	...	10.3
4⅞	1¾	Border & Sthn Pet♦	1⅞	...	...	...
20¾	13½	Bougainville	17⅛	...	...	...
4	⅞	BowLeven♦	1¾	...	...	-2.2
567½	430	**BP**‡	519⅛	-4	...	18.8
16⅝	6½	Cadence Min♦	8¼	...	...	0.8
2½	1½	Cadogan Petrol	1¾	...	...	25.0
1350	775	Caledonia Mining♦	850	+40	...	8.3
555¼	155	Capricorn Energy	170	-4⅛	...	1.3
8⅜	2¼	Caspian Sunrise♦	3	...	...	89.7
125½	83	Centamin‡	90	-⅛	...	13.9
292½	175½	Cent Asia Metals♦	206	...	...	6.0
14½	4⅝	Chaarat Gold♦	5	...	...	...
19⅜	12½	Chariot Oil & Gas♦	13⅞	+¾	...	...
4	⅝	China Nonferr Gold♦	⅝	...	...	-4.9
⅛	...	Clontarf Energy♦	...	...	...	-1.4
34½	15¼	Condor Gld♦	21¼	...	...	...
½	⅛	Corcel♦	½	...	...	-0.5
10384¼	73⅜	DRD Gold	73⅜	+1	...	8.6
1⅛	⅛	ECR Minerals♦	¼	...	...	-1.5
1⅜	⅝	Empyrean Energy♦	⅞	...	...	-6.3
2184	1461	**Endeavour**‡	1634	-24	...	24.3
30¼	14	EnQuest	15	...	...	0.9
5¾	2¼	Eurasia Mining♦	2⅞	-⅛	...	...
2½	⅞	Europa Oil&Gas♦	1⅛	...	...	11.1
175	74⅛	Ferrexpo	77½	-6⅛	...	0.6
968	509⅛	**Fresnillo**	579	-9½	...	13.7
...	...	G3 Exploration#	28	...	...	-2.6
39	13¾	Galantas Gold♦	13¾	-¼	...	-2.3
6¾	1⅞	GCM Resources♦	1⅞	...	...	-1.6
36⅝	15¾	Gem Diamonds	16⅜	+⅛	...	1.7
18½	8⅜	Getech♦	8½	...	...	-2.0
578	411⅜	**Glencore**‡	459⅝	+3¼	...	16.8
⅜	⅛	Global Petrol♦	⅛	...	...	-1.6
136513¼	987	Gold Fields	987	-14⅛	...	15.1
12½	6¼	Goldplat♦	6¼	...	...	4.7
7¼	2⅛	Goldstone Res♦#	2⅛	...	...	-9.9
9⅛	5⅞	Greatld Gld♦	7¼	-½	...	...
96½	70	Griffin Mining♦	92	...	...	10.1
229½	84¾	Gulf Keystone	92⅛	-5½	...	5.7
25⅞	5⅝	Harland & Wolff Gp♦	13⅛	+⅛	...	1.0
94⅞	51½	Hochschild	89	+2⅜	...	8.6
172	85	Horizonte Minrls♦	131	+1	...	...
351½	197⅜	Hunting PLC	300½	+3½	...	-7.6
¼	...	Independ Res♦#	...	...	...	...
272	125	Indus Gas♦	141	...	...	14.6
⅜	¼	Ironveld♦	¼	...	...	-4.0
118½	66¾	ITM Power♦	78⅝	-4⅞	...	...
13	6¼	Jubilee Metals♦	7⅝	+½	...	6.3
5⅛	1⅝	Karel Diamd Res♦	4⅞	...	...	...
...	...	KEFI Gold and Copper♦	⅝	...	...	-2.8
493	380½	Kenmare Res	432	-½	...	5.0
9	8¾	Lamprell#	8⅞	...	...	-0.7
20	8¼	Landore Res♦	9⅞	...	...	-2.2
½	...	Lansdowne O&G♦	...	...	...	-2.8
15	10	Leeds Group♦	11½	+1½	...	-1.8
8¾	3½	Lexington Gold♦	5¾	...	...	...
21½	7⅛	MC Mining♦	7½	...	...	-1.5
2¼	¾	Metals Explorn♦	2	...	...	3.4
¼	⅛	Nostra Terra♦	⅛	...	...	-1.0
26½	⅛	Nostrum O&G	12⅝	+⅝	...	-0.1
...	...	Oil Search	218⅞	-5⅜	...	60.3
...	...	Oilex♦#	⅛	...	...	-3.7
⅛	...	Oriole Resources♦	...	...	...	-1.0
⅞	½	Ormonde Mining♦#	¾	...	...	-3.1
14	2⅞	Orosur Mining♦	2⅞	...	...	-4.3
20⅛	12	Pan African Res♦	15¼	+1	...	4.9
111	10½	Pantheon Res♦	30¾	+2¾	...	...
67⅜	13	Parkmead Grp♦	16¼	...	...	-1.4
⅜	⅛	Pathfinder Mins♦	¼	...	...	-2.7
120	64¾	Petra Diamonds	68⅞	-1	...	2.3
1¾	⅞	Petrel Resources♦	1	...	...	-5.0
7	1⅝	Petro Matad♦	3¼	...	...	...
125½	46	Petrofac	78⅛	-1½	...	-2.0
1	...	Petroneft Res♦#	...	...	...	-0.2
...	...	Petropavlovsk#	1⅛	-⅛	...	1.6
...	...	Phoenix Global♦	6½	+¼	...	-1.6
17⅜	1⅝	Plexus Holdings♦	17⅜	+2½	...	-4.3
350	150	Polymetal Intl#	215	+50	...	...
698	499	Porvair	599	+9	...	23.0
19¼	5¼	Prospex Energy♦	5¼	-½	...	-7.0
14⅝	7½	Proton Motor Power S♦	7¾	-½	...	-1.4
3⅜	3¼	Providence Res♦	3¼	...	...	29.0
2¾	⅞	Quadrise♦	⅞	...	...	-3.5
7¼	2	Rambler Met&Min♦#	5⅜	...	...	0.1
¼	...	Reabold Resources♦	...	...	...	-1.7
½	⅛	Red Rock Res♦	⅛	...	...	-0.7
6670⅝	4559¼	Rio Tinto Ltd	6196¾	+20¾	...	6.4
6377	4486	**Rio Tinto**‡	5238	-51	...	5.4
40	12½	San Leon Energy♦#	16½	+1½	...	6.1
½	⅛	Scirocco Energy♦	⅜	...	...	...
38½	21½	Serabi Gold♦	24	+1½	...	3.2
382	198⅜	Serica Energy♦	268	+1	...	...
13½	8¾	Shanta Gold♦	10¼	...	...	6.5
2604½	2200½	**Shell**‡	2591	+11	...	13.6
15	4¾	Shuka Minerals♦	10½	-¾	...	-0.7
2	¾	Sound Energy♦	1	...	...	6.4
85¾	9¼	Star Energy♦	9½	-⅛	...	-0.4
⅛	...	Sunrise Resources♦	...	...	...	-9.2
¼	...	Tertiary Minerals♦	...	...	...	-3.2
6¼	1½	Thor Mining♦	1½	-¼	...	-9.6
5598⅛	3849¾	Total Eng SE	5598⅛	+229⅜	...	12.8
¼	...	Tower Resources♦	...	...	...	-0.7
48⅞	22½	Tullow Oil	34⅞	...	...	3.5
...	...	UK Oil & Gas♦	...	...	...	-1.1
222	125	URU Metals♦	125	...	...	4.0
¾	⅛	Vast Res♦	⅛	...	...	...
...	...	Victoria Oil&Gas♦#	3¾	...	...	-1.8
...	...	W Resources♦#	2⅝	...	...	-0.3
3¼	1⅞	Westmount Engy♦	1⅞	...	...	-0.4
226	104½	Wood Grp (J)	156½	-6⅝	...	-6.4
4½	¼	Woodbois♦	½	...	...	2.2
3½	1⅛	Xtract Resources♦	1¼	...	...	-2.4
7¼	3	Zephyr Energy♦	3¼	...	...	-4.2

Professional & support services

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
5350	3280	4imprint Grp	5080	-30	...	85.7
657½	460	Andrews Sykes♦	630	...	...	20.1
5874	3829	**Ashtead**	5232	+26	...	25.4
7¾	⅞	Asimilar Group♦	1	...	...	...
78½	36	AssetCo♦	36	-2	...	0.2
55	40½	Avisen♦	47	-1	...	...
148	113½	Begbies Traynor♦	113½	+1½	...	...
226	154½	Blancco Tech♦	225	...	...	80.6
3225	2664	**Bunzl**	2873	+15	...	21.8
42⅝	16⅛	Capita	16⅜	-⅝	...	1.2
41½	36	CEPS♦	41	...	...	-9.3
160	97½	Christie Group♦	97½	-12½	...	41.4
2235	1788½	**Compass**	2059	-13	...	50.1
252	97	CPPGroup♦	157½	+½	...	...
68½	45	Croma Security♦	49½	+½	...	7.1
5024	4030	**DCC**	4535	-106	...	14.9
104	30	De La Rue	62	+½	...	8.1
3308	2226	Diploma	3114	-12	...	55.7
938	626	Discoverie	709	+7	...	58.1
33	23½	Driver Group♦	27½	...	...	13.1
252	145⅜	Essentra	149	+3½	...	16.7
3160	2568	**Experian**	2768	-44	...	35.5
12850	9094	Ferguson	12415	+35	...	18.3
274	225	FIH Group♦	242	...	...	...
10⅝	5	Grafenia♦	9	...	...	-6.6
485	317	Hargeaves Serv♦	466	+2	...	4.8
735	517½	Impellam Grp♦	685	-25	...	37.4
7½	4	Ince G♦#	5⅛	...	...	2.9
4528	3619	**Intertek**‡	4224	-9	...	23.7
197⅝	115⅜	IWG	160⅝	-5⅜	...	-6.1
138	77	Johnson Srvce♦	133⅛	-¾	...	83.2
197	106	Journeo♦	182½	-6	...	40.9
104	56½	Kier Gp	104	+3¾	...	10.1
1360	1080	Latham (J)♦	1125	...	...	6.1
990	695	Lok'n Store♦	723	-9	...	21.9
3100	2300	Lon Security♦	3000	...	...	16.5
327	220	LSL Prop Services	265	-15	...	7.3
119	86	Macfarlane‡	111	+2	...	12.8
255	90	Maintel Hldgs♦	160	-5	...	4.9
1930	8¼	Malvern Intl♦	24½	-1	...	...
292	185	Mears Group	282½	-4½	...	24.5
105¾	61½	Mitie Gp	101¾	-4⅛	...	50.9
13¾	3¾	MobilityOne♦	5¾	-¼	...	4.2
56½	25	Newmark Sec♦	52	+1	...	...
6½	3½	Norm Broadbent♦	5½	...	...	...
62½	37	Northern Bear♦	55	...	...	5.6
286	218½	NWF Grp♦	241	+1	...	...
491½	362⅛	PageGroup‡	405⅛	-8¾	...	10.9
58	45½	PCI-PAL♦	47	...	...	-9.7
11½	6¾	Petards♦	6⅞	...	...	12.5
24	12½	PHSC♦	22½	+1	...	40.9
1⅞	⅜	PowerHouse Egy♦	½	...	...	-0.9
98	66	Record	79	...	...	21.7
437½	283½	Redde Northgate‡	328	-1½	...	8.2
760	555	Renew Hldgs♦	716	...	...	17.7
698	450	Renewi	498	-10	...	10.5
655⅛	465	**Rentokil**	597½	-6⅛	...	42.3
427	125	Restore♦	192	-1	...	22.8
610	412½	Ricardo	512	-4	...	45.7
600	355	Robert Walters‡	380	+5	...	8.7
20	11	Roebuck Food Grp♦	13½	...	...	2.0
239	207	RPS Group	221	-1	...	...
1044	696½	**RS Group**	711¾	-32⅛	...	18.0
58½	16	RTC Group♦	58½	...	...	...
408⅜	226⅛	RWS Hldgs♦	249⅜	-4½	...	22.8
431	365	Science Group♦	407	...	...	18.7
172½	136⅞	Serco‡	150	-2⅜	...	6.1
57½	27½	Smiths News	43	-⅞	...	4.1
3596	2452	**Smurfit Kappa**	2868	-18	...	13.0
44	25⅜	Staffline Gp♦	28⅞	+½	...	22.2
484½	332	SThree	359	-½	...	11.6
137½	102½	Synectics♦	112½	...	...	...
31	21⅝	Thruvision Group♦	28½	...	...	...
81½	35	Tribal♦	47	-1⅞	...	14.7
87	51	Vianet♦‡	76½	-2	...	...
798	504½	Vp	517½	-2½	...	12.7
2⅜	1⅛	Westminster♦	1⅜	...	...	-1.7

Real estate

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
131¼	95½	Shaftesbury Cap‡	114⅝	-1⅜	...	33.7

Retailing

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
100½	41⅜	AO World	84	-1¼	...	...
590½	295½	**B&M European**	564¾	-12⅛	...	13.1
42⅝	20¼	Brown (N)♦	20½	-⅜	...	6.0
112½	40¾	Card Factory	103⅛	-1½	...	...
2192	1473	CVS Group♦	1482	-8	...	41.5
165	104¾	DFS Furn	110	-6	...	5.8
1275	712½	Dunelm	1091	-34	...	14.7
899	621	**Frasers Group**	797½	-7	...	35.4
2904	1673	Greggs‡	2422	-118	...	21.1
226⅛	126½	Halfords	192⅞	-4¼	...	6.4
759⅛	480⅞	Howden Joinery	731	-18⅛	...	13.7
941	675	Inchcape	764½	-28	...	25.8
4⅜	1⅝	IQ-AI	4¼	...	...	...
186⅝	89⅛	**JD Sports**	136	-3½	...	16.4
291½	203	**Kingfisher**	235½	-⅜	...	5.9
129⅛	61½	Lookers	129⅛	-⅛	...	8.3
231½	93⅛	Marks & Spencer	222½	+2¾	...	...
10½	4⅜	Mothercare♦	4⅜	...	...	-2.7
138⅞	60	Naked Wines♦	70	+1	...	...
7278	4383	**Next**	7112	-82	...	13.5
976⅜	343⅜	**Ocado**	787	+23⅜	...	...
28⅜	14⅞	Pendragon	23⅝	+5⅛	...	7.4
397½	257¾	Pets at Home	339⅛	-9	...	13.8
188½	72⅞	Saga	120⅜	-4¾	...	...
289½	169⅞	**Sainsbury's**	276⅛	-3⅜	...	23.2
1714	1132½	WH Smith	1344	-62	...	...
27¼	14¼	Sosandar♦	23½	-¼	...	...
...	...	Studio Retail#	115	-2½	...	2.4
284½	199⅛	**Tesco**	271½	+¾	...	13.8
56⅜	38	Topps Tiles	49¼	+⅝	...	8.9

Technology

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
100½	59	Access Intell♦	59	...	...	-8.1
131	9½	Aferian plc♦	17½	...	...	3.1
196½	126	Alfa Financial‡	160½	+2	...	25.1
13¾	8¼	Allied Minds	13¾	+3⅛	...	-1.2
412	268	Aptitude Software	277	...	...	31.1
265	162½	Bango♦	187½	+15	...	...
33	21	BATM Adv Coms	29½	+½	...	12.3
38	14¼	Berkeley Res	19½	-1½	...	-8.3
18¾	5¾	Blackbird♦	10	...	...	...
1¼	¾	CloudCoCo Group♦	¾	...	...	-1.8
2486	1810	Computacenter	2450	-30	...	15.2
84½	55½	Concurrent Tech♦	75½	-½	...	17.9
11½	5¾	Corero♦	6⅛	-⅜	...	...
2250	1080	Craneware♦	1550	-30	...	70.6
3¼	1¾	Crimson Tide♦	2⅜	...	...	16.3
24	11¼	CyanConn Hldgs♦	13¼	-½	...	...
261½	157½	D4t4 Solutions♦	182½	...	...	21.6
21	13	Dillistone Group♦	13½	...	...	-3.9
⅜	⅛	EQTEC♦	⅛	...	...	-1.7
870	518	FDM Group	526	-21	...	18.2
18	10¾	Filtronic♦	16⅛	...	...	43.6
2165	1230	First Derivts♦	1562	-24	...	...
636½	213¾	GB Group♦	218⅜	-3½	...	16.6
180½	135	GreshamTech	147½	...	...	...
68½	24¼	Ilika♦	39	+½	...	...
132½	91	Ingenta♦	122½	...	...	71.6
77	38	Intercede♦	52	...	...	17.9
189⅜	112	Iomart♦	169½	-3⅜	...	18.6
59⅞	16⅜	IQE♦	18⅞	...	...	...
129	112½	K3 Business Tch♦	123	...	...	-2.1
1694	1048⅝	LG Electronics	1453⅞	+80¾	...	3.8
⅛	⅛	Location Sciences♦#	⅛	...	...	-2.3
56½	42	MTI Wireless♦	45½	...	...	15.1
55¾	17	Nanoco Gp	17⅛	+⅛	...	...
116½	74	Netcall♦	87½	...	...	...
49½	35	Northamber♦	45½	...	...	...
25¾	10¼	Online Blockchain♦	10½	...	...	-5.5
119	80½	Oxford Metrics♦	96	-1	...	41.7
8½	2½	Parity♦	2¾	...	...	-3.9
41½	28½	Pennant Intl♦	37½	-½	...	...
634½	390¾	Playtech	497¾	-4⅝	...	5.2
379¾	297⅛	QinetiQ	329⅛	-6⅛	...	25.7
92	20½	RM	60⅜	...	...	12.0
1039	679¾	**Sage**	1020½	-8	...	39.1
7⅝	5	Seeing Machines♦	5⅞	-⅛	...	...
116½	37	Shearwater Grp♦	46	...	...	28.5
54	31½	Smartspace S'ware♦	41½	-1	...	-4.3
1534	1071	Softcat	1444	-21	...	28.3
286⅛	139½	Spirent Comms	139½	-2½	...	13.0
68	25⅛	SRT Marine♦	47	-½	...	...
525	363½	Tele. Ericsson	408	+1¼	...	7.4
112½	72½	Touchstar♦	96¼	...	...	...
1000	720	Tracsis♦	810	...	...	...
19½	12¼	Trakm8♦	17	...	...	...
165	81	Triad Grp	125	...	...	13.7
1380	49	Wandisco♦	53⅜	...	...	-0.9
710	387½	Water Intel♦	387½	...	...	21.3
211½	144½	Xaar	175½	-9	...	...
5⅛	⅛	Yourgene♦	½	...	...	-0.3
207½	57½	Zoo Digital♦	57½	...	...	...

Telecoms

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
200½	100	AdEPT Technology♦‡	200½	...	...	...
141	103⅝	**Airtel Africa**	124⅞	-4⅝	...	11.1
160¼	112	**BT Group**	118⅛	+1⅛	...	11.4
85¼	47⅞	Currys plc	48¼	-⅞	...	2.2
1210	1012	Gamma Comms♦	1162	-20	...	21.0
128⅛	82	Helios Towers	83⅛	+1¾	...	-7.5
2215½	1003	Just Eat T'away	1097	-24	...	-2.3
¼	...	Mobile Streams♦	...	...	...	-1.6
2¼	⅝	Mobile Tornado♦	1⅜	...	...	-8.2
2500	1464	Telecom Plus	1570	...	...	40.2
108¾	70	**Vodafone**	79⅜	-⅜	...	...

Transport

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
336½	224	Braemar Ship#	233	+3	...	7.7
528	285	EasyJet	434	-11½	...	-2.7
6⅞	2⅜	Esken Limited	3	...	...	-0.1
157⅞	93½	FirstGroup	156⅞	+⅝	...	37.3
425	251	Fisher (James)	348	+13	...	-6.3
173½	93⅝	**International Airlines**	150⅞	-2¾	...	-3.3
272⅜	183⅛	IDS	262¼	+5	...	3.0
439¼	322	Irish Cont Uts‡	394	+1	...	...
1381½	667¾	Jet2♦	1093	-17	...	-5.8
198⅞	75⅜	Mobico Group	82½	-4⅞	...	-4.9
1035	820	Ocean Wilson	930	-20	...	4.7
...	...	Stagecoach	104⅝	...	...	14.7
23	15½	Sutton Harbour♦	15½	...	...	-9.0
372	192⅜	Wincanton	245	-1	...	6.6
3158	1357½	Wizz Air	1990½	-69½	...	-4.5

Utilities

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
170	67¼	**Centrica**	170	+¼	...	17.1
255½	249	ContourGlobal	251	+½	...	28.3
716	473⅜	Drax Group‡	516⅜	+18¾	...	38.2
555	432	Jersey Electricity	450	...	...	8.5
1162	858⅜	**National Grid**	1018	-4½	...	23.7
9¾	5⅝	OPG Power♦	8½	-¼	...	5.5
1000	599½	Pennon	619	-19	...	44.8
¾	¼	Rurelec♦	½	...	...	-0.4
2975	2213	**Severn Trent**	2447	-39	...	...
1900	1428	**SSE**‡	1655	-13½	...	6.4
1102½	828⅛	**United Utilities**	975⅛	-10⅜	...	89.4

♦AIM company; # Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex scrip; ▲ Ex rights issue; ▼ Ex all; § Ex capital distribution; * figures or report awaited; . . . No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index. Investment Cos sector Nav Dis or Prm supplied by Morningstar.

MORNINGSTAR® Data as shown is for information purposes only. No offer is made by Morningstar or this publication

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

RYOBI 18V CORDLESS MULTI INFLATOR WITH 2.0AH BATTERY STARTER KIT

Pump it up at home or on-the-go!



- Maintains optimum tyre pressure for safer driving and greater fuel efficiency!
- Hassle-free and always ready to go with complete cordless convenience!

"Ryobi's Cordless Multi Inflator, your go-to solution for easy inflation of tyres, inflatables and more!"

Introducing the 18V Ryobi Cordless Digital Multi Inflator for effortless inflation wherever you go! Say goodbye to manual pumps and tedious trips to petrol stations trying to find an air machine that actually works! With the 18V Ryobi Cordless Digital Multi Inflator you have all the power and convenience you need right at your fingertips. Tough, durable and reliable, this pressure inflator belongs to the Ryobi ONE+™ system, boasting over 200 cordless tools, from home to garden, automotive, crafting and beyond!

Dual Function Wonder: The Ryobi Cordless Digital Multi Inflator is a true all-in-one multitasker, offering both high-pressure inflation for car or bike tyres and high-volume inflation – or deflation – for those large inflatables or air beds.

Powerful & Precise: Equipped with a digital pressure display, the Ryobi Multi Inflator ensures precise inflation every time. With up to 150PSI/10.34BAR of pressure, you can tackle emergencies swiftly and enjoy peace of mind on the road. Plus, the easy-to-use controls allow automatic shut-off at your desired pressure – no more overinflated tyres or inflatables!

Trustpilot 4.8/5
Ryobi is rated 'Excellent'

Cordless Freedom: No cords, no hassle! This Cordless Digital Multi Inflator runs on the included 18V 2.0Ah battery, providing all the power you need for up to 11 double air mattresses or 41 bicycle tyres on a single charge. It's your ticket to inflation freedom wherever you go!

Versatility onboard: You'll be amazed by the Ryobi Inflator's exceptional adaptability, too! Equipped with a flexible hose, high-pressure tyre valve, presta valve adaptor, sports ball needle, and tapered nozzle — all ingeniously stored onboard for swift access and effortless organisation. Whether you're a DIY enthusiast, a passionate cyclist, or an adventure-seeking holidaymaker, this multi-inflator kit is an absolute essential!

Save Time and Money: Why waste time and money at petrol stations when you can have the Ryobi Cordless Digital Multi Inflator at home, or stowed away safely in your car boot? Keep it handy for easy access, and never worry about deflated tyres or inflatables ever again.

Unbeatable Offer: Grab the 18V Cordless Multi Inflator with battery starter kit now for just £99.99, saving over £95! Your purchase is protected by Ryobi's 3-year warranty*, and includes fast, free GB mainland delivery, making it a deal not to miss out on!

Experience the freedom of inflation wherever you go. Get your 18V Ryobi Cordless Digital Multi Inflator today and pump it up with ease!

Easy and Convenient High Pressure or High volume Inflation or Deflation



Dual function high volume inflator and deflator



High or low pressure for tyres and inflatables



Automatic shut-off at any pressure you choose

Ryobi 18V Cordless Multi Inflator Kit
What you get

- Cordless Multi Inflator
- Ryobi 18V ONE+ 2.0Ah Battery
- Ryobi 18V ONE+ 2.0A Charger
- 3-Year Warranty*



R18MI-1C20GL

18V ONE+ CORDLESS BATTERY SYSTEM



One battery fits all

Ryobi's 18V ONE+ Battery System is designed for cordless convenience. All Ryobi's cordless tool kits come complete with a battery and charger to start your ONE+ system. Then, expand your system for less by buying new tools and only adding batteries or chargers if you need them.

200+ TOOLS for the home and garden powered by one battery | **25 YEARS** Of ONE+ battery system innovation | **SAVE MONEY** Expand your collection with tools without batteries

SAVE OVER £95†
Including your 2.0 Ah Battery Starter Kit

NOW ONLY £99.99
including FREE DELIVERY to GB Mainland only
††Further restrictions may apply

ORDER NOW

Call 0333 006 9466
PROMOTION CODE PR2122
Lines open 8am-8pm Monday-Sunday

www.ryobitools.co.uk/press

3 YEAR WARRANTY

FREE DELIVERY

dpd Secure tracked delivery

Scan to shop now

RYOBI

Subject to availability. Free 3-5 day delivery to UK mainland only – further geographical restrictions may apply. Your right to cancel will last for 14 days after receipt of goods. If you change your mind during this period, provided the goods remain unused & in original packaging, you can notify us of cancellation. *Registration required for warranty extension from 2 – 3 years. Register within 30 days of receipt of goods at RyobiTools.co.uk. †Saving against RRPs of kit components. ††Free 3-5 day delivery to GB Mainland only – restricted delivery postcodes: BT, IM, JE, GY, HS, IV4, KA2, KW, PA, PH4, ZE, TR2. Product sold by Techtronic Industries (UK) Limited, company registration: GB 551396338. All rights reserved. For full terms & conditions of sale please visit RyobiTools.co.uk. RYOBI is a Trade Mark of Ryobi Limited, and is used under license. Trustpilot score correct as of September 2023



Czech pop singer who appeared with the Stones
Yvonne Prenosilova
Page 48

Register

Obituaries

Edith Grossman

Acclaimed literary translator of Spanish and Latin American greats who was hailed by Gabriel García Márquez as his ‘voice in English’

Translators, wrote Edith Grossman in her book *Why Translation Matters*, are usually seen as “the humble, anonymous handmaidens-and-men” who toil in the shadows of the great writers, their translations appearing as if by some kind of “immaculate conception”.

Yet translation, she argued, is an art form in its own right that offers a crucial cultural window to readers.

“Fidelity is surely our highest aim, but a translation is not made with tracing paper,” she noted in a tribute to Gabriel García Márquez, whose novels she translated. “It is an act of critical interpretation. No two languages, with all their accretions of tradition and culture, ever dovetail perfectly. They can be linked by translation, as a photograph can link movement and stasis, but it is disingenuous to assume that either translation or photography … are representational in any narrow sense of the term.”

Her 2003 translation of the 17th-century novel *Don Quixote* is still considered the definitive version in English. It was one of the first books to have included the name of its translator on the front cover alongside that of the author, Miguel de Cervantes. Her “discomfort” when her lawyer first suggested that she ask for the credit soon gave way to delight.

“I thought: ‘It’s bloody well about time that the translator not be treated as a poor relation, that the translator

‘Like Glenn Gould, she articulates every note,’ Harold Bloom wrote

is treated as an equal partner in the enterprise’.”

Translating the Spanish epic was no easy task: there was 400 years’ worth of heavy scholarship and translations to wade through and it took Grossman two years to complete. For the first time she used footnotes to help her explain some of the hardest-to-translate puns.

When it was published, a Guardian review from Harold Bloom, who wrote the book’s introduction, praised the “extraordinarily high quality of her prose” and her skilful portrait of a Spain in spiritual decline. “Grossman might be called the Glenn Gould of translators,” he wrote, “because she, too, articulates every note.” Carlos Fuentes, the Mexican writer whose books she would translate, called her *Don Quixote* “truly mastery: the contemporaneous and the original coexist”.

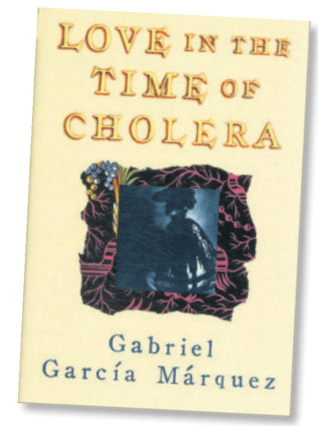
When Márquez discovered that Grossman — by now something of a specialist in Latin American and Spanish literature — was translating Cervantes, the Colombian writer said: “I hear you’re two-timing me with Miguel.” She had translated almost all of Márquez’s novels, starting with *Love in the Time of Cholera*, of which Grossman’s translation was published in 1988. It marked a turning point in her career.

Still refining her craft she found Márquez an exacting author to translate — rather like having a very strict composition teacher at school, she said, or “doing an intense crossword puzzle” — and he asked her to avoid using adverbs since he never used them in Spanish.

JENNIFER S. ALTMAN/CONTOUR BY GETTY IMAGES







Grossman at home in New York in 2003, and two of her translations. Her Don Quixote was one of the first books to include the translator’s name on the cover

“I thought of a generalised 19th-century realistic-novel voice by way of Faulkner,” who, Grossman argued, was “very Spanish” in the way his sentences flow and their dependent clauses. “It’s as if Hemingway had never walked the earth. I put Hemingway’s impulse to abbreviate and write very tersely aside and used polysyllabic words, and I did not use contractions. I just let it be a little old-fashioned in its flow.”

Grossman often spoke of wanting to “hear” the original version of a text as profoundly as possible, and she was once again praised for managing to capture “the swing and translucency of his writing”, observed Thomas Pynchon, “its slang and its classicism, the lyrical stretches and those end-of-sentence zingers he likes to hit us with.”

Márquez was also impressed and he asked her to translate his subsequent novels, including *The General in His Labyrinth, One Hundred Years of Solitude* and *News of a Kidnapping*, as well as his memoir *Living to Tell the Tale*. “You are my voice in English,” he told her.

She was born Edith Marion Dorph in 1936 in a middle-class neighbourhood of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Her family later moved to New York. Her father, Alexander Dorph, was a shoe salesman and union organiser and her mother, Sarah (née Stern), a secretary and homemaker.

As a teenager she devoured science fiction novels until one day she “found it so tedious that I couldn’t read it any more”. She began studying Spanish at Girls High (“for my sins”), Philadelphia’s best public school for girls at the time, where she was a reluctant student and “bored speechless” until a Spanish teacher sparked her interest in the language and literature of Spain and Latin America and encouraged her to apply for a scholarship to the University of Pennsylvania, where Grossman completed a BA and then an MA in Spanish.

She had a good ear and a knack for memorising and during her studies she translated the lyrical poetry of Juan Ramón Jiménez, the Nobel prizewinning Spanish author.

After travelling to Spain in 1962 on a Fulbright scholarship she completed a PhD in Latin American literature at New York University (NYU). Some of her translations were published in the university literary magazine and her dissertation on the Chilean “anti-poet” Nicanor Parra caught the eye of her adviser, Ronald Christ, who gave her a job reviewing at the literary magazine he edited.

At the start of her career she set her sights on being a critic and teacher — a limitation perhaps owing to a professor at the university who had once said to her: “You know you’re taking the space of somebody who’s going to go on in the field, and you’re just going to get married and have kids.”

“I really got pissed,” she recalled. “I told him: ‘You have no way of knowing what I am going to do’.”

In the Seventies she “moonlighted as a translator” and “sunlighted as a college instructor” at NYU and Columbia University. Her first professional translation for Christ was a piece from 1941 called *The Surgery of Psychic Removal* by the Argentinian writer Macedonian Fernandez, about erasing memory. At first she was hesitant. “I said ‘Ronald, I’m not a translator, I’m a critic.’ And he said, ‘Call yourself whatever you want. Try this.’ ”

By 1990, two years after she translated *Love in the Time of Cholera*, she had given up teaching and criticism full-time to focus on translation. “I thought to sit at home and translate was more fun than playing with monkeys,” she told The Observer in a critique of academic life. “I didn’t have to get dressed to go to work. I could smoke all I wanted. And I thought, this is perfect.”

Grossman could be prickly if she had cause. An acute literary bugbear was the standard interpretation of Márquez’s novels as masterpieces of “magical realism”, which she thought both lazy and inaccurate. Her students, she recalled, were allowed to say anything they liked in her presence — except for the words “magical” and “realism”.

“It’s always struck me as an easy, empty kind of remark,” said Grossman, who was tall and strong-boned with

She observed that there are similarities between translation and marriage

silver-streaked hair and a husky voice. “In other words, when you say ‘magic realism’ what have you said about what kind of novels he writes? What have you said about the way Latin America, Colombia in particular, plays a part in his books?”

Yet for all her stridency Edie, as everyone called her, had “a satirical bent” to her character — “I see the ludicrous in lots of elements,” she said — and this came through in her translations, which were playful and always receptive to humour. When she first read *Don Quixote* as a teenager she was struck by the tragedy of the story, but with age she came to see the comedy of it and found the book “insanely funny”.

To unwind she sometimes watched a programme on the home shopping channel “that makes me laugh, because it’s unintentionally funny”. Her favourite musician was Aretha Franklin and she described herself as a “closet poet”.

Among the awards she received was the Officer’s Cross of the Order of Civil Merit, awarded by King Felipe of Spain in 2016.

She had married Norman Grossman, a musician, in 1965. They divorced in 1984 and she is survived by two sons, Kory and Matthew.

She once observed that there are certain similarities between translation and marriage; she advised colleagues not to marry someone whose company they did not enjoy, just as they should not translate a book they did not like.

And so her translations were always works by authors she admired, such as Isabel Allende, Laura Esquivel, Álvaro Mutis and the Peruvian Nobel laureate Mario Vargas Llosa.

As for Cervantes, “I would love to have a meal with him,” she once said. “I’d love to have a couple of drinks with him. I’d like to sit and chat and talk about literature and all of the other things you talk about with someone you’re really very fond of.”

Edith Grossman, translator, was born on March 22, 1936. She died of pancreatic cancer on September 4, 2023, aged 87

Professor Christopher Coker

Renowned academic who taught at the LSE for four decades and wrote extensively on war and international affairs

He was a professor of international relations at the London School of Economics for nearly four decades, but Christopher Coker's interests ranged far more widely than his job title suggested. As well as work on more conventional aspects of foreign policy and security, Coker's many books, essays and lectures drew on his knowledge of philosophy, literature, popular culture, history and science as well as strategy and diplomacy.

Years before today's fevered debate about artificial intelligence, Coker began to explore its implications in the military sphere. Works such as *Warrior Geeks: How 21st-century Technology is Changing the Way We Fight and Think About War* discussed changes such as the use of cybernetics, the co-existence of soldiers and robots in conflict zones and the use of pharmacology to influence fighting forces.

While technology might enable wars to be fought in some ways more efficiently and purposefully, too great a symbiosis of combatant and machine could, he argued, pose an existential threat. Drone pilots, for example, distant from the battlefield, could face a "moral disconnection from war itself" losing any idea of "courageous restraint". Coker argued for a retention of older virtues such as the warrior ethos which "keeps war as an ethical entity". There should be no subcontracting of ethical choices to machines.

His belief in the wisdom of older thinking about war was also evident in his book *Rebooting Clausewitz*, where he sought to apply the insights of the great Prussian military theorist to modern conflicts such as those in Iraq and Afghanistan. Coker imagined Clausewitz attending a seminar at the US military college West Point, a debate on the "war on terror" in Washington and a military history discussion in London. His aim was to show that hidden behind the somewhat forbidding style of Clausewitz's own works were questions that all those interested in war, politics and strategy should continue to ask.

War, Coker believed, was "embedded in our cultural evolution" and crucial to understanding human nature. Its form might be changed by technology and other factors but the human capacity for war showed little sign of diminishing.

In another of his works published in 2019 he discussed the rise of what he called the "civilisational state" in examples such as Vladimir Putin's Russia, Xi Jinping's China and Islamic caliphates in the Middle East. Those states in their varied ways seemed determined to challenge the liberal international order.

Coker warned against assumptions that increasing global economic links were making war between states such as the US and China unlikely, reminding readers of the tensions caused by the rise of German power before 1914. While conflict was not inevitable it was unwise to assume leaders would act in a rational way. Their choices would be framed by "national purpose" narratives that outsiders needed to understand as well as possible.

"It is," he once wrote, "the stories that states and societies tell themselves and others that lead to conflict, or which allow a different, more peaceful path to be pursued". Well before the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Coker warned of Russian nationalists "who feel that their own civilisation is measured by the seasons and pace of growth — and the more pessimistic, feeling that winter is already setting in, are given to dreaming of one heroic last act".



Coker enlivened lectures with dry wit

Coker had begun his academic career in the more settled if hardly peaceful world of the Cold War. He was born in 1953 in the UK but his father's banking career took him abroad, especially to Africa. An early interest in conflict was sparked, he recalled, by stories told about the two world wars by his parents and grandparents.

After undergraduate studies at Cambridge and an Oxford doctorate he began his long career at the LSE in 1982 — an unusually conservative figure in a place more famous for its left-wing staff. Coker was in many ways a private individual, who never married nor had children. However, he was immensely popular with students whom he entertained in long convivial meals and supported with great loyalty. They were, he once quipped, like children to him.

Students relished his lectures enlivened with dry wit and references to such unexpected figures as Britney Spears or Tinkerbell. "He asked us to think and think hard about difficult questions," recalled one former student "but to make sure we had a good time while doing so." His office at the LSE was filled not only with books and papers but also his collection of what he called global-political kitsch including totalitarian art and figurines of world leaders.

Coker's early academic research focused on key Cold War topics such as transatlantic relations and the struggle for international influence in Africa. He was concerned by what he saw as the failure of the West to understand the significance of developments in regions such as the Horn of Africa and their effect on what should be vital security concerns such as shipping lanes.

After the Cold War, he expressed his concern that the West was entering a kind of twilight zone, having lost its sense of purpose. The Atlantic alliance, he believed, had never achieved the kind of emotional allegiance from its members that would sustain it after the disappearance of the Soviet threat. British defence policy, he suggested, was too driven by Treasury priorities and lacked long-term strategic depth as well as a credible national story that drew the right lessons from history.

Although he remained on the staff of the LSE Coker was much in demand elsewhere as a lecturer and consultant. He worked with the Royal United Services Institute, Chatham House and UK defence colleges, and had international links with institutions in countries ranging from the US, Japan and South Africa to Norway and Italy. "I've been to Rome over 20 times," he joked, "and I've only travelled to three places: the airport, the conference site, and the hotel bar." Admirers at a conference he attended in Romania said Coker reminded them of a 1940s British intelligence officer or an academic James Bond deciphering the world.

After retiring from his professorship

He believed that conflict was 'embedded in our cultural evolution'

Coker continued to lead the LSE's Ideas think tank, well suited to the breadth of his intellectual interests. In the face of all the international challenges emerging in recent years he continued to urge realism, courage and as much understanding as possible of why many in the world might reject western ideas of freedom or choose to go to war.

While his view of the world led to an instinctive pessimism, he explained his fascination with war by quoting Dickens: "There are dark shadows on the Earth, but its lights are stronger in the contrast".

Professor Christopher Coker, military and international affairs specialist, was born on March 28, 1953. He died of undisclosed causes on September 5, 2023, aged 70

Yvonne Prenosilova

Czech pop singer who became a symbol of liberalisation under Dubcek and appeared on British TV with the Rolling Stones

"When she sang, our jaws dropped" was one musician's recollection of hearing Yvonne Prenosilova for the first time. She was only 15 years old but her voice was so different from the refined sound young Czech soloists were trained to produce, or the insipid folk music encouraged by Czechoslovakia's communist rulers.

There was a rawness to her singing, its authentic emotional edge perfect for the rhythm and blues and rock'n'roll she loved to perform. Some compared her to the US singer Brenda Lee and her version of one of Lee's songs, *I'm Sorry*, was one of the bestselling Czech songs of the 1960s.

Prenosilova's appearance — with flowing hair and plenty of dark eyeliner in what was called a Cleopatra look — suited well the cultural mood behind the country's Prague Spring liberalisation. After the grey sterility of the early decades of communist rule, her youthful boldness and embrace of global music resonated across the clubs and TV shows where she began to appear.

Her most successful songs included *Shoes Against Love*, a stylish version of Nancy Sinatra's *These Boots Are Made for Walkin'*. There were also moodier, darker Czech ballads such as *Nocni Modlitba* (Night Prayer) which hinted that, despite Prenosilova's youth, her musical depth came from profound personal experience.

Prenosilova was born in 1947 in Prague. Her father, Jiri, had fled Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia at the start of the Second World War to join exiles fighting with British forces. He was deployed to Palestine where he met her mother, Marketa, a Jewish refugee from Nazi Austria. When they moved to Czechoslovakia after the war, life became increasingly tough after the communists took power. Her father was tortured and imprisoned for a year because of his wartime association with the "imperialist" West. She grew up in an unusually international environment, with English and German the main languages at home. At school, where teachers discriminated against her as a "bourgeois" child, she refused to show any enthusiasm for compulsory Russian.





Prenosilova in 1968, left, and 1965, above. In London she enjoyed buying the latest fashions in Carnaby Street

Her parents, she recalled, could be harsh in attempting to shape their only child's development, with her father sometimes beating her. They wanted her to become a ballet dancer and sent her for tennis lessons. It was when she was raging loudly against her inability to hit the ball that a group of musicians nearby noticed her "strong, good voice" and invited her to sing with them. They took her to an audition which was also being filmed by the young director Milos Forman.

Although her mother had kitted her out "with a knitted sweater that made me look like a polar bear" her talents were spotted and she was recruited to a popular new band, Olympic.

British visitors noticed her too and in 1965 she was invited to London, working with the producer Tony Hatch to release a single *When My Baby Cries*. She also appeared on the TV show *Ready, Steady, Go!* rubbing shoulders with other guests including the Rolling Stones. "Someone told them I was from Czechoslovakia, but they had no idea where it was," she recalled, though Mick Jagger did wish her good luck.

She adored exploring Swinging Sixties London, buying the latest fashions in Carnaby Street. One British paper dubbed her the "red queen from behind the Iron Curtain".

After three weeks, instead of taking up an offer to tour and promote her music, Prenosilova felt obliged to return to her parents and school in Prague. She continued to perform and appear in film roles there and the communist authorities began to monitor her more closely as her fame grew.

A secret police agent masquerading as one of her numerous male admirers arrived at her flat with flowers for her and cupcakes for her vigilant mother. "To this day I do not know if he was in love or it was simply in his job description," Prenosilova joked later. Her mother made her views clear by slamming the door in the hapless agent's face.

The authorities' suspicion posed a much darker threat in 1968. A leading campaigner for increased freedom, Ludvik Vaculik, asked Prenosilova to support his manifesto, Two Thousand Words, and she became one of its first signatories. Czechoslovakia's communists — and crucially the Soviet leadership in Moscow — saw such initiatives as an intolerable challenge to their control.

Prenosilova now faced what she called "psychological terror from morning till night", with regular death threats. Days after the Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia she managed to cross the border into Austria. "At 21, you don't think" she said. "It was self-preservation."

She tried to revive her musical contacts in London, but they were no longer effective. Moving to Munich, she released singles from there but without success. She gave up singing and took a job with British Airways as a stewardess through which she met a lawyer, Baron Andreas von Stuckmann, whom she married in 1978. They had a son, Max, who became an economist.

Her marriage ended in divorce in 1985. As the revolution against communism in Czechoslovakia gathered pace, in late 1989 she appeared at a concert hall in Prague where the emotion was overwhelming. "I had butterflies in my stomach as I hadn't sung in 20 years. I wasn't able to utter a word, let alone sing, but I got a standing ovation."

She moved back permanently in 1994, working for Radio Free Europe as a music presenter. To her great sadness, however, her teenage son Max chose not to join her. There was much melancholy and loneliness in her later life, as she faced increasingly poor health, culminating in terminal cancer.

Prenosilova had been able to resume some singing and acting, however, performing again the songs that had been popular in the heady times of the mid-1960s. Her voice was instantly recognisable but had, some thought, a newly wistful tone, a bittersweet note, as she and her generation rejoiced at the end of communist rule but realised what a price they had paid for trying to be free.

Yvonne Prenosilova, singer, was born on July 2, 1947. She died of complications following cancer on September 11, 2023, aged 76

Lives remembered

Nico Ladenis



Adrian Hope writes: I had the honour of handling Nico Ladenis's restaurant insurances. Mr Ladenis (obituary, September 11) once phoned me to say, "I have broken a chair in the restaurant and want to make a claim!" I replied by asking how much the chair would cost to replace and he replied £250. I then informed Nico very politely that his policy had a £250 excess to which there was silence then a crashing noise in the background followed by Nico informing me that he had now broken two chairs. I knew better than to argue with Nico and said a cheque would be in the post!

Richard Fowler writes: I remember going to Chez Nico in Rochester Row with Nico Ladenis's recipe book hidden in my wife's bag. All through a delicious dinner I was wondering how to pluck up the courage to ask his wife Dinah (who was front of house) about his chocolate marquise recipe. After dinner I did then ask her why she thought the recipe I had followed to the letter had failed completely. I expected a rebuke about amateur cooks. She then told me that some of the recipes in the book were not accurate. She disappeared with the book and reappeared with a smiling Nico who made a handwritten correction to the recipe.

Mike Yarwood



Stephen Bacon writes: Mike and Sandra Yarwood became my parents' next-door neighbours in Prestbury, Cheshire.

When my mother was in her garden Mike's head would pop up over the hedge to ask if she could come round to hear one of his proposed characters.

Mike (obituary, September 9) was clear that it should be an honest and unbiased view. Coincidentally, my mother was a qualified drama teacher. Of course it was mostly thumbs-up. However, at times she did express doubts. On such occasions she was probably the only person to witness the lines. As far as she was aware they never went beyond the door of Mike's little study where he developed his act.

Sarah Lawson



His Honour Tim Pontius writes: I much admired Sarah Lawson (obituary, September 15) in the TV series *The Odd Man*. It was her beautiful voice that captivated me, a voice that I didn't hear again until the Nineties, when I was delighted to find that she and her husband Patrick were fellow worshippers at St Paul's, Knightsbridge. She frequently read the first lesson, so I was grateful to benefit from her advice on voice projection and enunciation whenever I read lessons and in my work as a circuit judge!

@ If you would like to add a personal view or recollection to a published obituary, you can send your contribution by post to Times Obituaries, 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF, or by email to **tributes@thetimes.co.uk**

PHOTOGRAPHER LIAM GILLAN

The perfect wedding gift



50% discount for subscribers

College friends find a love to last

ELEANOR EVE AND JAMES MARTIN WERE MARRIED ON NOVEMBER 12, 2022, AT APTON HALL, IN ROCHFORD, ESSEX. THEY FEATURED IN THE TIMES ON FEBRUARY 11, 2023

Mark an unforgettable day with a feature in Readers' Lives, a service in contracted tributes

Call 020 7782 5583 or email readerslives@thetimes.co.uk

THE TIMES

Court Circular

Kensington Palace
18th September, 2023
The Prince of Wales this morning departed from Heathrow Airport, London, for the United States of America and was received this afternoon upon arrival at Newark Liberty International Airport, New Jersey, by His Majesty's Consul-General for New York (Ms Emma Wade-Smith).

His Royal Highness visited the Billion Oyster Project at Governors Island and Brooklyn Bridge Park, New York City, New York.

The Prince of Wales afterwards called upon Mr António Guterres (Secretary-General of the United Nations) at the United Nations Headquarters, 405 East 42nd Street, New York City.

Mr Jean-Christophe Gray and Mr David Hunt are in attendance.

The Prince of Wales, Commodore-in-Chief, Fleet Air Arm, this morning visited Royal Naval Air Station Yeovilton, Somerset.

St James's Palace
18th September, 2023
The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron, The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Foundation, this morning attended a Meeting with Mr Justin Rose (Ambassador for The Duke of Edinburgh Cup) at Wentworth Golf Club, Wentworth Drive, Virginia Water, Surrey.

St James's Palace
18th September, 2023
The Princess Royal, Guardian, Give Them A Sporting Chance, this morning visited the Rivertime Boat Trust at the River and Rowing Museum, Mill Meadows, Henley-on-Thames, and was received by Mr Brian Buchan (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Oxfordshire).

Her Royal Highness, Patron, National Transport Trust, this afternoon attended the Annual Awards Ceremony at Fawley Hill Museum, Fawley Hill, Fawley, Henley-on-Thames, and was received by His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire (the Countess Howe).

St James's Palace
18th September, 2023
The Duke of Kent, Patron, the British Computer Society, this afternoon attended a Reception at the Savoy, Strand, London, WC2.

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

To place notices for these sections please call 020 7481 4000

Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 11.30am three days prior to insertion

Births, Marriages and Deaths

020 7782 7553
newsukadvertising.co.uk

AND it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the LORD has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the LORD calls. Joel 2.32 (ESV)

Bible verses are provided by the Bible Society

Births

FALCONER-EVANS on 16th September 2023 to Sophie and Alex, a daughter, Goldie Jess, sister to Jaxon and already much loved by the rest of her family.

Forthcoming Marriages

MR J. C. R. HENSON AND MISS I. RODRÍGUEZ-LEGORBURU CABRERA-KÁBANA
The engagement is announced between Jasper, son of Mr and Mrs Rupert Henson of Longworth, Oxfordshire, and Isabel, the elder daughter of the Condes de Asmir of Madrid, Spain.

MR A. O. L. POLLEN AND MISS H. V. LOWE
The engagement is announced between Anthony, younger son of Mr and Mrs John Pollen of Angersleigh, Somerset, and Harriet, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Jonathan Lowe of Brightwalton, Berkshire.

Deaths

ALLEN Richard Staines passed away peacefully on 24th August 2023, aged 93 . A dearly loved husband to Ann, a loving father to Penelope, Adrian, Alison and Sophie and grandfather to nine grandchildren. Richard will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral to take place on Monday 2nd October at St Mary's Church, Great Shefford at 1.30pm. Donations in memory of Richard are for Cancer Research UK c/o R.C. Smallbone 37 Pound Street, Newbury RG14 6AE.

BARR James Dugald Maclachlan on 3rd September 2023, aged 80. The son of Elizabeth and Lyle, devoted and adoring husband of Haruko, brother of Fiona, and uncle of Jamie and Rosamund. He had fought a long and painful illness with characteristic fortitude. Funeral on Thursday 19th October at St James's Church, Piccadilly at 11am. All welcome.

BONNER
Alan James. Died peacefully at home on 9th September 2023, aged 85. Beloved husband of Aveen and the late Claire. Much-loved father of Lucy and Henry, grandfather of eight and great-grandfather of two. Sadly missed by his family and his many friends. Funeral service to be held at St Mary's Church, Widdington on Wednesday 27th September 2023 at 2pm. All inquiries to Peasgood & Skeates, 01799 523314.

BROOKE-SMITH Jenifer (née Brett) died peacefully on 10th September 2023, aged 92. Beloved wife of Brian, adored mother of Elizabeth and John, and loving grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral at St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden, at 11.30am on Wednesday 27th September.

CROPPER Gordon died on 5th September 2023, aged 76. A loving husband, dad and grandad who enjoyed a long career in law and criminal justice. Funeral — Hendon Crem Friday 22nd Sept 11am.

CURLE
Frederick Sidney — known as Tim — passed away peacefully on Sunday 20th August 2023, aged 84. Much-loved and missed by his wife Emma, son and daughter-in-law Nick and Simonetta, and his three granddaughters. A funeral service will be held at St Barnabas, Dulwich, on Thursday 21st September at 12.30pm. In lieu of flowers, donations to be made to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution and Christian Aid.

D'ALBIAC James on 12th September 2023, aged 87, at home surrounded by his family. Thanksgiving Service on Friday 29th September at 12.30pm at St Simon Zelotes, Milner Street, London SW3. Everyone is welcome. All inquiries to Iain Steel at Richard Steel & Partners 01962 862333.

EDWARD Jane Sophia (née Turner). Peacefully at home 13/9/23, aged 86. Memorial service at Castleton Church at 11am on Friday 27th October 2023. Donations thebrooke.org

GULLEN Roger Frederic passed away peacefully on 7th September 2023, aged 71, after a short illness.

HALL
David John (Glasthule, Dublin and Dooega, Achill Island) died suddenly on 26th August 2023, aged 64. Beloved husband of Jacqueline, much-loved father of Shana, Mark and Tara, grandfather of David James, and brother of Sally. His passion and energy for life will live on through all that knew him. David was predeceased by his mother Jean Elizabeth and brothers Peter and Stephen. A funeral service to celebrate David's life will take place at 12pm on Thursday 28th September in St Martin of Tours Church, Guston — the parish of his mother's family. His ashes will be interred in the parish garden of remembrance and on Achill Island at a later date.

HARGROVE Joanna (Jo) (née Kell) died peacefully on 23rd August 2023, aged 86, at Camberley Heights Care Home. Married to Bernard until his death in 2017, proud mother of Ginny, Richard and Lizzi and devoted Granny to Jasper, Ellie, Beth, Lily, Thomas and Barney. Private cremation. All inquiries to Ford Mears Funeral Directors, 242 Farnborough Road, Farnborough, GU14 7JW. Tel: 01252 549335, or: Farnborough@fordmears.uk

LEA Derek Arthur died peacefully at home on 2nd September 2023, aged 81. Much-loved husband of Deirdre, father of Melanie, Angela and Daphne, father-in-law of Jes, Simon and Mark, grandfather of Darcey, Nicholas, Josie, Rosanna, Imogen and Aidan. Funeral at St Mark's Church, Purley, on 22nd September at 11.30am.

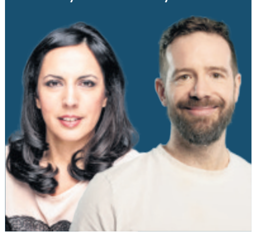
LEIGH Dr FW (Winston) of Sheffield and Chichester died on 5th September 2023. Truly loved. All inquiries to FA Holland Funeralcare, 4 New Parade, Cakeham Road, East Wittering, Chichester, PO20 8EA. Tel: 01243 671 396.

QUENBY
John R, born October 1941, died at home on 29th August 2023. Beloved husband to Frances, predeceased by his former wife, Sandra, and survived by their daughters Georgia and Fiona and granddaughters Cameron, Sacha and Alex. Funeral to be held on Wednesday 20th September at 2.30pm in Wilstead Village Hall, MK45 3BX. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired made payable to Sue Ryder St Johns may be sent c/o Clarabut and Plumbe Funeral Directors, 11 Kingsway Bedford, MK42 9BJ, telephone 01234 354547.

WALTON John Victor passed away peacefully on 2nd September 2023, aged 97. Much-loved husband of Alice and loving father to James, Victoria and Roland, grandfather to 11 and great-grandfather to nine. Private family funeral to be followed by memorial at a later date.

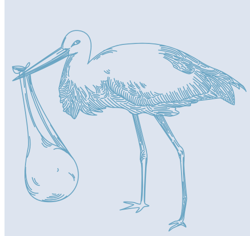
WOODS Florence Mary (née Edington) on 11th September 2023, aged 85. Beloved wife of Eric, mother of Katie and Penny, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral and thanksgiving service at St James Church, Stedham, on Friday 29th September at 2.30pm. Colourful dress requested. No flowers please. All inquiries to Roger Poat & Partners 01730 812094.

TIMES RADIO
Join us for breakfast
Listen to Aasmah Mir and Stig Abell on Times Radio, Monday to Thursday at 6am



The simple way to place your announcement in The Times. Available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

newsukadvertising.co.uk



★★ BOOK WITH THE UK'S NO.1 INDEPENDENT CRUISE SPECIALIST - READER OFFERS LTD ★★



THE 2024 5★ ALL-INCLUSIVE *Jewels of Europe* RIVER CRUISE SALE

Exclusive PROMOTION ENDS 8PM 26TH SEPTEMBER 2023

BEST EVER PRICES - PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

ALL SHORE EXCURSIONS *Included*×

SECOND GUEST SAILS *Free*

Complimentary DRINKS, WI-FI & INCLUDED GRATUITIES++

ONCE THEY'RE GONE, THEY'RE GONE

With over 25 years' experience, we are proud to be the UK's No.1 Independent Cruise Specialist, providing a dedicated 5★ service whilst ensuring that each cruise holiday offers incredible value for money. We are delighted to present the 2024 all-inclusive Jewels of Europe River Cruise Sale! Book today with Reader Offers Ltd to receive a host of exclusive benefits, there's never been a better time to secure your ABTA and ATOL-protected holiday!

14 NIGHTS DEPARTING 29TH APRIL, 10TH JULY, 7TH & 21ST AUGUST, 24TH OCTOBER & 7TH NOVEMBER 2024

Day 1 Fly from London to Amsterdam, Netherlands
Upon arrival, transfer to the port and embark your award winning river ship for your 14 night all-inclusive river cruise. This evening, enjoy a welcome reception (D)

Day 2 Amsterdam, Netherlands
★Included Excursion: Head off on a guided bicycle tour outside the city or taste some Dutch favourites on a walking tour. Alternatively, experience an iconic canal cruise, or visit the windmills of Alkmaar and Schermerhorn (B,L,D)

Day 3 Cologne, Germany
★Included Excursion: Stroll through the city and get up close to the famous cathedral, or step inside the cathedral with your local guide. Alternatively, enjoy a guided tour or cycle to Cologne from the charming village of Zons (B,L,D)
★Exclusive Experience: Attend a lavish dinner and classical concert where live music from Beethoven and Mozart will be played in the spectacular La Redoute recital hall in Germany's former capital, Bonn. This beautiful hall has hosted many important dignitaries over the centuries, including the Queen, Princess Diana and multiple US Presidents. Tonight, this elegant venue is just for you

Day 4 *Cruising the Rhine Gorge –* **Rüdesheim, Germany**
★Included Excursion: Take the Winzerexpress mini-train to Siegfried's Mechanical Musical Instrument Museum before enjoying a cable car ride to the Niederwald Monument, or join a guided hike through the vineyards (B,L,D)

Day 5 Miltenberg to Wertheim, Germany
★Included Excursion: Enjoy a tour of Miltenberg before visiting a local farm where you will meet the friendly family, or meet a winemaker for a tasting. Alternatively, meet a Baron and Baroness and learn about aristocratic life, or visit a local Schnapps distiller for a tasting

Day 6 Würzburg, Germany
★Included Excursion: Travel the Romantic Road to Rothenburg for a tour, or visit the Würzburg Residence palace (B,L,D)

Day 7 Bamberg, Germany
★Included Excursion: Take a guided tour of the Old Town or taste some regional specialities on a walking tour (B,L,D)

Day 8 Nuremberg, Germany
★Included Excursion: Explore by foot on a guided walking tour of the Old Town or join the trials and tribulations of WWII Tour or explore Nuremberg's Castle and City Walls (B,L,D)

Day 9 Regensburg, Germany
★Included Excursion: Enjoy a walking tour of Regensburg, or board a local ferry and sail the Danube Gorge to Weltenburg Abbey to sample beer (B,L,D)

Day 10 Salzburg, Austria
★Included Excursion: Full day excursion to Salzburg, best known as the home of Mozart and The Sound of Music. Alternatively, from Passau, journey via coach to the Czech town of Cesky Krumlov. This delightful World Heritage-listed town is brimming with charm

Day 11 Melk – Dürnstein, Austria
★Included Excursion: Experience Melk's magnificent Benedictine Abbey on a guided tour, or embark on a guided bike ride along the river from Melk to Dürnstein. Alternatively, visit the fairytale 12th century castle of Burg Aggstein (B,L,D)

Day 12 Vienna, Austria
★Exclusive Experience: Visit the Palais Liechtenstein and enjoy an enchanting private classical evening concert featuring the timeless music of Strauss and Mozart (B,L,D)

Day 13 Vienna, Austria
★Included Excursion: Delight in a guided tour of Bratislava or journey to Schönbrunn Palace. Or, enjoy a cycling tour to the Danube Island or discover the city centre of Vienna is overflowing with history, elegance and diverse architecture. During this tour, your expert local guide will delight you with stories from the city before allowing you extended free time to explore as you wish (B,L,D)

Day 14 Budapest, Hungary
★Included Excursion: Head off on a guided tour of Budapest including a piano concert or relax and unwind at the Thermal Baths and Spa. Uncover the labyrinths of the Hospital in the Rock. Alternatively, join a walking and coach tour for an insight into Budapest's communist past and life today (B,L,D)

Day 15 Budapest, Hungary
After breakfast, disembark and transfer to the airport for your flight to London (B)

Itinerary is based on 7th November 2024 and other dates may operate in reverse. Preview itinerary may be subject to change. Meals are included as stated: B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner

What's Included IN YOUR EXCLUSIVE READER OFFERS LTD PACKAGE

HURRY - ONCE THEY'RE GONE, THEY'RE GONE!
SECOND GUEST SAILS FREE
• PLUS, BOOK BY 8PM 26TH SEPTEMBER 2023 TO RECEIVE AN EXCLUSIVE FREE DUO OF WINE+

- 14 nights all-inclusive cruising on board your 5★ river ship, including:
  - **COMPLIMENTARY** branded beverages all day++
  - **41 INCLUDED** shore excursions×
  - **2 EXCLUSIVE** experiences
  - **COMPLIMENTARY** Wi-Fi++
  - **INCLUDED** Gratuities++
  - Butler service
  - Exclusive Tailormade GPS app for self-guided touring & the freedom of e-Bikes
  - Authentic local entertainment
  - Mini bar re-stocked daily, including snacks
  - Multiple dining options from casual to fine dining
  - Expert local guides
- Return flights** from a selection of UK airports (regional flights may be available on request>) and overseas transfers

- **EARN EXCLUSIVE CRUISE MILES®**
  Up to **£11,889** Cruise Miles®, only when booking with Reader Offers Ltd†† - Ask for more information

YOUR EXCLUSIVE READER OFFERS LTD SALE FARES FROM

SUITE	1ST GUEST	2ND GUEST
Standard Suite	£6,259	FREE
Balcony Suite	£7,549	FREE
Deluxe Balcony Suite	£8,569	FREE
Junior Balcony Suite	£8,809	FREE
Royal Owner's Suite	£11,889	FREE

Fares and availability are based on 7th November 2024 departure date

www.rolcruise.co.uk
TRAVEL WITH CONFIDENCE ABTA ABTA No F9255

CALL ONE OF OUR CRUISE SPECIALISTS **FREE** ON **0808 258 3420**
QUOTE OFFER REF **632855**
OPEN 7 DAYS 8:30AM – 8PM

Platinum Trusted Service Award 2023 feefo
ROL CRUISE

Fares are per person based on two adults sharing, may increase or be withdrawn at any time. Offer applies to new bookings only. Other dates may run in reverse. ±Savings are based on two adults sharing a Balcony Suite. >Regional flights may be available on request. **Included flights are in the form of flight credit and may be at a supplement. ++Subject to the cruise line's T&Cs. ×Tours are subject to change. +Duo of wine is based on one per booking, for UK mainland addresses only. 5★ relates to the cruise element only. Bookings are non-refundable and non-transferable. Full payment is required 10 months prior to departure or at the time of booking if within 10 months of departure. Offer is not combinable with any other offer. ††Cruise Miles® T&Cs apply. Cruise Line T&Cs apply. E&OE.

Today Mainly cloudy, blustery and humid with rain but fresher with showers in Scotland. Max 19C (66F), min 5C (41F)

Around Britain

Key: b=bright, c=cloud, d=drizzle, pc=partly cloudy du=dull, f=fair, fg=fog, h=hail, m=mist, r=rain, sh=showers, sl=sleet, sn=snow, s=sun, t=thunder
*=previous day **=data not available

	Temp C midday yesterday		Rain mm 24 hrs to 5pm yesterday	Sun hr*
Aberdeen	15	C	2.6	3.0
Aberporth	14	R	11.4	0.0
Anglesey	15	C	25.0	0.0
Aviemore	12	R	16.4	0.6
Barnstaple	15	C	1.6	**
Bedford	20	C	28.8	**
Belfast	14	S	15.4	0.0
Birmingham	17	D	17.0	**
Bournemouth	19	R	11.0	0.9
Bridlington	18	PC	14.6	**
Bristol	17	C	2.4	0.0
Camborne	16	C	1.4	2.2
Cardiff	16	PC	1.8	0.0
Edinburgh	13	R	11.0	0.0
Eskdalemuir	13	C	14.8	0.0
Glasgow	14	C	14.2	0.0
Hereford	15	C	6.6	**
Herstmonceux	17	R	11.6	2.4
Ipswich	19	C	4.4	0.9
Isle of Man	15	PC	15.4	0.0
Isle of Wight	19	R	6.2	**
Jersey	18	C	0.0	4.8
Keswick	13	R	11.4	**
Kinloss	13	R	24.4	3.1
Leeds	13	R	14.2	**
Lerwick	13	M	10.6	1.9
Leuchars	14	R	7.8	0.0
Lincoln	19	PC	15.8	2.1
Liverpool	14	R	11.0	**
London	18	R	6.8	0.9
Lyneham	17	C	17.8	0.0
Manchester	13	C	11.0	0.4
Margate	18	C	9.2	2.2
Milford Haven	15	PC	8.0	**
Newcastle	12	R	3.2	**
Nottingham	18	C	34.8	0.9
Orkney	14	C	16.8	4.0
Oxford	16	R	16.4	**
Plymouth	17	PC	1.4	**
Portland	16	R	5.2	**
Scilly, St Mary's	16	PC	3.0	**
Shoreham	17	D	12.8	0.9
Shrewsbury	14	C	8.6	0.5
Snowdonia	13	R	25.0	**
Southend	17	R	5.6	0.6
South Uist	13	C	24.8	**
Stornoway	11	D	26.2	3.5
Tiree	14	R	16.4	0.0
Whitehaven	13	R	10.0	0.0
Wick	13	R	25.8	**
Yeovilton	18	PC	0.2	0.0

The world

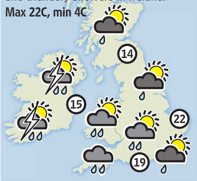
All readings local midday yesterday

Alicante	29	PC	Madeira	24	PC
Amsterdam	22	PC	Madrid	19	B
Athens	25	PC	Malaga	26	PC
Auckland	18	B	Mallorca	28	PC
Bahrain	37	S	Malta	30	S
Bangkok	31	SH	Melbourne	18	SH
Barbados	32	PC	Mexico City	24	B
Barcelona	27	S	Miami	26	T
Beijing	27	S	Milan	23	B
Beirut	29	S	Mombasa	31	PC
Belgrade	28	S	Montreal	21	B
Berlin	26	S	Moscow	17	S
Bermuda	28	B	Mumbai	29	**
Bordeaux	21	B	Munich	23	S
Brussels	22	PC	Nairobi	24	B
Bucharest	24	PC	Naples	29	S
Budapest	26	PC	New Orleans	32	S
Buenos Aires	17	S	New York	22	B
Cairo	31	S	Nice	26	B
Calcutta	31	**	Nicosia	32	PC
Canberra	25	S	Oslo	11	R
Cape Town	17	B	Paris	23	PC
Chicago	17	B	Perth	19	B
Copenhagen	22	PC	Prague	25	S
Corfu	31	PC	Reykjavik	11	S
Delhi	31	**	Riga	18	S
Dubai	40	S	Rio de Janeiro	32	S
Dublin	14	PC	Riyadh	41	S
Faro	22	PC	Rome	30	S
Florence	29	PC	San Francisco	23	PC
Frankfurt	22	B	Santiago	10	SH
Geneva	17	SH	São Paulo	30	S
Gibraltar	25	B	Seoul	27	PC
Helsinki	14	PC	Seychelles	28	PC
Hong Kong	31	PC	Singapore	31	PC
Honolulu	31	PC	St Petersburg	13	B
Istanbul	25	PC	Stockholm	15	PC
Jerusalem	31	S	Sydney	32	S
Johannesburg	18	PC	Tel Aviv	31	S
Kuala Lumpur	32	PC	Tenerife	28	PC
Kyiv	**	**	Tokyo	32	PC
Lanzarote	26	PC	Vancouver	18	B
Las Palmas	26	PC	Venice	24	SH
Lima	18	DU	Vienna	27	PC
Lisbon	22	PC	Warsaw	26	PC
Los Angeles	21	C	Washington	21	C
Luxor	35	S	Zurich	19	SH

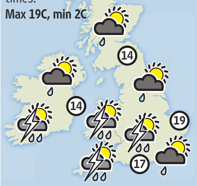
Five days ahead

Unsettled and blustery with showers or longer spells of rain, heavy at times

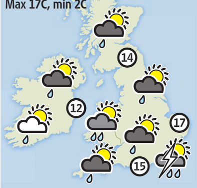
Tomorrow
Cloud and rain moving eastward across England, Wales and Scotland, heavy at times. Warm, dry and sunny in the southeast in the morning. Sunshine and thundery showers in Ireland.
Max 22C, min 4C



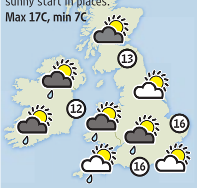
Thursday
Cloud and rain clearing the southeast at first to bring a day of sunny spells and scattered showers over the British Isles, some heavy and thundery at times.
Max 19C, min 2C



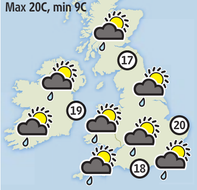
Friday
Sunny spells and a scattering of showers across most of the British Isles, some heavy and thundery in the southeast.
Max 17C, min 2C



Saturday
Mainly dry with sunny spells in eastern England and eastern Scotland. Cloud and rain spreading into Ireland and western Britain after a dry and sunny start in places.
Max 17C, min 7C



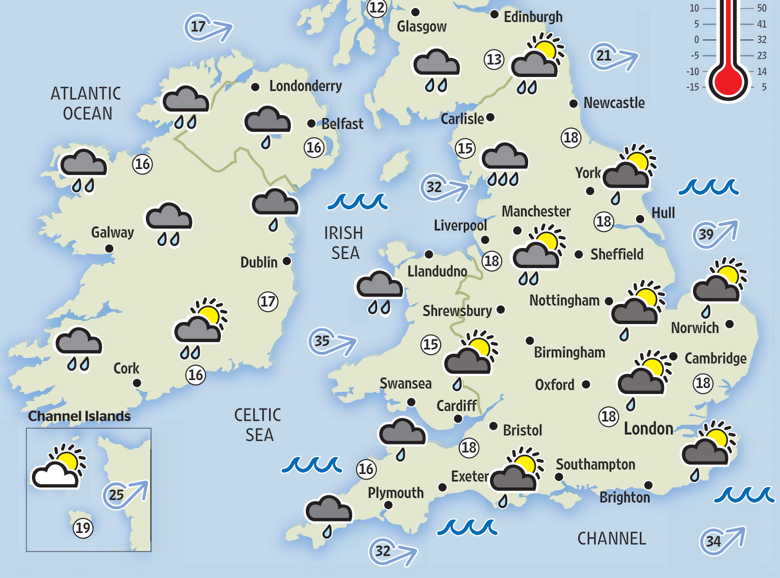
Sunday
A blustery day with sunny spells and the risk of a few showers, possibly heavy at times in Scotland, Wales and western England.
Max 20C, min 9C



The Times weather page is provided by WeatherQuest

Wind speed 34 (mph)
Temperature 28 (degrees C)
Sea state Calm, Slight, Moderate, Rough

Flood alerts and warnings
At 17:00 on Monday there were 10 flood alerts and two warnings in England and no flood alerts or warnings in Wales or Scotland. For further information and updates in England visit flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk, for Wales naturalresources.wales/flooding and for Scotland SEPA.org.uk

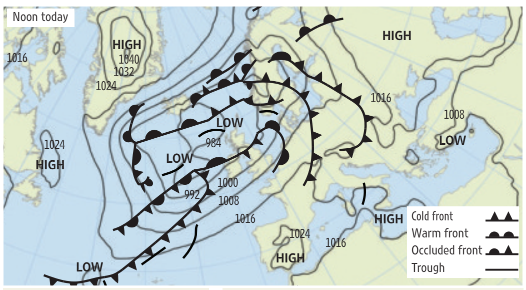


General situation: Rather cloudy with showery rain in the north and west, heavy over high ground, but drier in the southeast and northern Scotland.
SW Eng, Cen S Eng, London, SE Eng, E Anglia: Some dry and sunny spells at first, but cloud increasing to bring showery light rain or drizzle at times. Fresh to strong southwesterly wind. Maximum 18C (64F), minimum 14C (57F).
Channel Is: A dry day with sunny spells and patchy cloud. Fresh to strong southwesterly wind. Maximum 19C (66F), minimum 18C (64F).
E Eng, Midlands: Cloudy with outbreaks of rain in the morning, turning drier with some sunny intervals during the afternoon. Fresh to strong southwesterly wind. Maximum 18C (64F), minimum 15C (59F).
Moray Firth, Cen Highland, Aberdeen: Dry with mainly sunny skies but cloud increasing from the south later. Light southwesterly wind. Maximum 13C (55F), minimum 5C (41F).
NW Scotland, NE Scotland, N Isles: Sunny spells and a scattering of showers, heavy at times. Moderate to strong southwesterly wind. Maximum 13C (55F), minimum 7C (45F).
Republic of Ireland, N Ireland, Wales, Cen N Eng, NW Eng, NE Eng, Argyll, Lake District, Edinburgh and Dundee, IoM, Glasgow, Borders, SW Scotland: Mainly overcast with rain, especially heavy over high ground. Moderate to strong southwesterly wind. Maximum 18C (64F), minimum 11C (52F).

Tides

Tidal predictions.
Heights in metres

Today		Ht		Ht
Aberdeen	04:18	4.2	16:42	4.0
Avonmouth	10:23	12.0	22:34	12.1
Belfast	01:53	3.5	14:08	3.3
Cardiff	10:06	11.4	22:19	11.4
Devonport	08:59	5.1	21:07	5.1
Dover	01:46	6.4	14:03	6.6
Dublin	01:05	5.5	13:26	5.3
Falmouth	08:19	4.8	20:21	4.9
Greenock	03:22	3.6	15:51	3.3
Harwich	02:45	3.8	14:50	3.9
Holyhead	01:11	5.5	13:31	5.3
Hull	09:22	7.2	21:46	7.0
Leith	05:42	5.3	18:05	5.2
Liverpool	01:55	9.0	14:15	8.7
London Bridge	04:55	6.7	17:11	6.8
Lowestoft	--:--	--	12:40	2.6
Milford Haven	09:18	6.6	21:32	6.6
Morecambe	02:05	9.0	14:26	8.8
Newhaven	01:57	6.4	14:14	6.5
Newquay	08:10	6.6	20:24	6.6
Oban	08:43	3.7	20:50	3.8
Penzance	07:42	5.2	19:55	5.2
Portsmouth	02:19	4.5	14:43	4.5
Shoreham	02:02	6.0	14:18	6.0
Southampton	01:53	4.5	14:14	4.5
Swansea	09:26	8.8	21:34	8.8
Tees	06:36	5.4	19:05	5.2
Weymouth	09:47	1.9	21:54	1.9



Synoptic situation

Low pressure with multiple centres to the north and west of the British Isles will bring a blustery day with a complex set of fronts bringing thick cloud and outbreaks of rain across most of Britain and Ireland. Warm with some dry and sunny spells over southern Britain and southeast Ireland. Low pressure will dominate the weather pattern for most of the week.

Highs and lows

24hrs to 5pm yesterday
Warmest: Cromer Norfolk, 21.9C
Coldest: Aonach Mor, 4.4C
Wettest: High Mowthorpe, North Yorkshire, 47.0mm
Sunniest: Jersey, 4.8hrs*

Sun and moon

For Greenwich
Sun rises: 06.41
Sun sets: 19.06
Moon rises: 11.35
Moon sets: 20.25
First quarter: September 22

Hours of darkness

Aberdeen	19:47-06:19
Belfast	20:01-06:35
Birmingham	19:44-06:19
Cardiff	19:49-06:25
Exeter	19:50-06:27
Glasgow	19:55-06:28
Liverpool	19:49-06:24
London	19:37-06:13
Manchester	19:46-06:21
Newcastle	19:44-06:17
Norwich	19:31-06:07
Penzance	19:58-06:35
Sheffield	19:43-06:18

Weather Eye
Paul Simons



The heatwave is long gone and September is now showing its true autumnal character in wind and pelting rain. On Saturday it will be the autumn equinox, a time of year long feared for stormy weather, as Arthur Conan Doyle described in *The Adventures of Sherlock Homes: The Five Orange Pips* (1891): "It was in the latter days of September, and the equinoctial gales had set in with exceptional violence. All day the wind had screamed and the rain had beaten against the windows."

The autumn equinox was believed to conjure up the storms, even though the equinox is simply an astronomical event when the hours of day and night are roughly equal, and has little direct impact on the weather. But the legend of the gales persisted and may have stemmed from the Atlantic hurricane season, which peaks in September.

Hurricanes can often end up racing into cold northerly Atlantic seas, a graveyard for tropical storms. Although the storms lose their tropical nature, they are still loaded with hot and humid tropical air, a potent mixture that can fuel high-octane Atlantic gales and pack quite a punch if they hit the UK.

This week there is a good illustration of this as the aftermath of Hurricane Lee draws near. The hurricane lost its tropical status just before it hit Nova Scotia, eastern Canada, on Saturday, after which the remains of the storm swung east across the Atlantic towards the UK. By tomorrow the depression will be quite intense and the core of the storm could pummel Scotland with wind and rain, with weather fronts also sweeping across the entire UK.

After the remnants of Lee another ex-hurricane may arrive. Hurricane Nigel is likely to become a major hurricane today in the mid-Atlantic before weakening into an ex-hurricane as it turns towards Ireland and the UK. The remnants are forecast to skirt past Scotland with wind and rain, as well as sweep in a wet and warmer southwesterly airflow, raising temperatures for many parts of the UK.

Speak directly to one of our forecasters on 09065 777675

8am to 5pm daily (calls are charged at £1.55 plus network extras)

WeatherQuest
weatherquest.co.uk



Discover a land of contrasting wonders in one thrilling trip

Experience the astonishing diversity of India on this highlight-packed adventure that encompasses both the pulsating North and chilled-out South. We start by exploring the three cities that form the Golden Triangle: frenetic Delhi; Agra, home to the Taj Mahal; and the Pink City of Jaipur. We then fly south to gaze over vast tea estates, cruise the Kerala backwaters and spot wildlife with an indigenous guide. A hand-picked selection of accommodations and off-the-tourist-track adventures make this trip ideal for anyone who wants to experience everything India offers.

15 DAYS FROM **£3,999*** per person

CALL TODAY ON **0808 189 2700**
thetimes.co.uk/ex-india
QUOTE TIMES150^

*Prices correct at time of going to press. ^Quote TIMES150 to be eligible for a £150pp saving, included in the cost above. Prices listed are based on two sharing a twin/double room. Single supplement available at £990pp, rooms are available to share on a request basis. Additional dates may be available, please call for details. Prices are correct at time of publication, and subject to confirmation at time of booking. Offer subject to availability and prices may fluctuate. This offer is not combinable with any other offers, including Loyalty Discounts Operated by and subject to the booking conditions of Exodus Travels, ABTA Y0751, ATOL 25825, a company wholly independent of News UK.

ABTA

Sport

Hodgkinson keeps faith she is on right path to glory in Paris

Athletics
Rick Broadbent

Spare a thought for Keely Hodgkinson. The chunk that the 21-year-old scythed off her own domestic 800m record on Sunday night means she is more than a second faster than any British woman past or present. In an event of wide-screen drama and fine margins, that is staggeringly good, so the fact she was beaten again must leave her wondering what she needs to do to top the podium.

Hodgkinson clocked 1min 55.19sec at the Diamond League finale in Eugene, Oregon, but was 0.22sec behind Athing Mu, 21, who broke the American record. The pair have been synonymous with each other since they were teenagers, finishing first and second at the Tokyo Olympics two years ago but when Hodgkinson finished ahead of Mu at last month's World Championships, she found herself pipped by Kenya's Mary Moraa. Three silver medals in three years at the highest level is hugely impressive but she is tracking only gold at the Olympics next year.

"I'm actually really proud of myself," Hodgkinson said. "A national record and a huge PB [personal best] is a really good way to end the season. It's a different result every time we run, so it's good to be a part of it. If I can just stay healthy between now and Paris, be consistent like I have been over the past few years, then hopefully this time we'll come out on top. But we'll see."

It was another brilliant race by Hodgkinson, who could also take solace from winning the overall Diamond League 800m crown for a second time and bagging a handy $30,000 (about £24,000). She is up to tenth in the all-time 800m list and, given the innuendo around Jarmila Kratochvilová's 1983 record and the Soviet times of the late 1970s, is in esteemed company. Indeed, only five women have run faster than her since the 1980s, and one was Caster Semenya, now barred from the 800m unless she takes hormone-suppressants, while another was Jolanda Ceplak, who was banned for taking erythropoietin.

Mu reflected on what the present generation is doing to the event: "It's nice to have these incredible athletes pushing the barrier, which has really been happening in the past couple of years. It's numerous athletes. It's not just one. It's awesome."

Hodgkinson took 0.58sec off the British record that she set in June and has held since beating Kelly Holmes's 1995 mark in the Olympic final in Tokyo.

The 800m was just one highlight on a remarkable night at the Prefontaine Classic. Ethiopia's Gudaf Tsegay took almost five seconds off the 5,000m world record as she clocked 14:0.21. The previous best had only been set in June by Faith Kipyegon during a purple patch in which the Kenyan also broke the 1,500m and mile records. Swedish high-flyer Mondo Duplantis also broke his own world record in the pole vault, for the second time this year, clearing 6.23 metres. "The limit is very high," he said with some understatement. "If I'm able to take it to another level and get as many eyes as possible watching then that's job done by me."

Another man in form was Jakob Ingebrigtsen, who ran the third-fastest mile in history on Saturday with a time of 3:43.73. The Norwegian, so memorably beaten by Josh Kerr in the 1,500m World Championship final, is not opposed to the curious post-race interview and said that "hopefully" he will be getting married next weekend. In his wake, George Mills clocked a personal best of 3:47.65 to go third on the all-time British list behind Steve Cram and Sebastian Coe.

Others looked happy to see the season reach the finishing line at the two-day event. Dina Asher-Smith has endured a deflating year and was only seventh in the 100m won by Shericka Jackson. The Jamaican then returned to defend the 200m. After a troubled year, Laura Muir signed off with a season's best as she finished third in a 1,500m race won by Kipyegon, while Noah Lyles, the double world champion, was overhauled by Christian Coleman in the men's 100m. Karsten Warholm, the 400m hurdles champion, suffered a second defeat in a fortnight.

ALI GRADISCHER/GETTY IMAGES



Hodgkinson won the overall Diamond League title despite finishing second again

Dart through to last 16 as WTA returns to China

Tennis Britain's Harriet Dart beat Germany's Jule Niemeier 6-3, 6-2 to reach the last 16 at the Guangzhou Open, the first WTA event to be held in China for 3½ years. Dart, 27, will face Greet Minnen, the Belgian seventh seed, in the last 16 tomorrow. Jodie Burrage was knocked out by Magda Linette, the Polish top seed, losing 6-7 (3-7), 6-0, 6-2.

The women's tour has not visited China since January 2020, first because of Covid-19, then because of a boycott over allegations made by Peng Shuai, the former doubles world No1, that she was "forced" into a sexual relationship with the former Chinese vice-premier Zhang Gaoli.

The WTA said it would not return until there was an investigation and it had proof of Peng's safety. She later denied making the allegations but has not been seen outside China since. Zhang has not commented.

In April 2023, the WTA accepted an investigation would not be carried out by China.

Murtagh to retire as Surrey hand duo deals

Cricket The Middlesex and Ireland seam bowler Tim Murtagh will retire at the end of the season after 263 first-class matches, including three Test matches for Ireland (Elizabeth Ammon writes).

Murtagh, 42, has taken 951 first-class wickets having started his career at Surrey before joining Middlesex in 2007, where he has played ever since and had a leading role in their county championship title in 2016, taking 43 wickets at an average of 28.53 that season.

He has had a player-coach role at Middlesex this term, featuring in five of their 12 division matches, and he will be offered a full-time coaching role from next season.

Meanwhile, the England duo Ben Foakes and Gus Atkinson have signed "multi-year contract extensions" at Surrey. Test wicketkeeper Foakes has three centuries in this season's County Championship, while Atkinson has had a breakout year for Surrey in all formats, leading to his inclusion in the England World Cup squad.

Red Bull's rivals can narrow gap and inject excitement into season

Rebecca Clancy



Motor Racing Correspondent

Having had a taste on Sunday of how exciting Formula Once can be without Red Bull hogging the limelight, Ferrari, McLaren and Mercedes are now hell-bent on keeping it that way.

Carlos Sainz's thrilling win for Ferrari while holding off three rivals on his tail could only have happened once Red Bull were out of contention. The breathless finale — with McLaren's Lando Norris in second and Lewis Hamilton, of Mercedes, in third — provided the sort of tension the sport has been crying out for this season.

It was the first time that Red Bull had not won since the penultimate race of last season in Brazil, but Toto Wolff, the Mercedes team principal, thinks there will be more opportunities for others to stand on the top step of the podium.

"Yes, I'd like to say that every year we raced we had a win at least," Wolff said. "But you've got to stay humble. We've had a super strong Red Bull all year, and in Singapore it was Ferrari, who were also strong in Monza [where Sainz finished third this month]. So I hope we have more opportunities this year. Brazil can be a good one for us. We will bring some stuff to Austin. There are some fun races ahead."

By "stuff" the Austrian means upgrades to the Mercedes cars. McLaren managed to introduce a few in Singapore and it did wonders for Norris's race as he matched the pace of Sainz and managed to fend off the Mercedes of George Russell, who crashed on the final lap.

While Mercedes and Ferrari are still working on this year's car, the sense in the paddock is that Red Bull have already turned their attention to next year's model — allowing the others to close the gap over the remaining seven races. After breaching the budget cap in 2021, Red Bull were fined and given 10 per cent less time to assess their car's aerodynamic development. This came on top of F1 having a sliding scale for wind-tunnel testing, with the bottom team getting the most time to examine their car for the next season and the top team the least. Hamilton thinks this could be a factor.

"Probably they haven't been developing," the seven-times world champion said. "McLaren brought an upgrade here, others are bringing upgrades. They [Red Bull] are working on next year's car. They have less wind-tunnel time, so they're probably using some of this year's [for] next year's [car]. They're so clear ahead maybe they're developing their car less and we're still pushing to develop our current one."

It is possible that the unrelenting heat and humidity of Singapore got to Red Bull because none of the excuses about set-up issues made sense. Their problems started on Friday in practice and every attempt to correct them sent them further down a rabbit hole. In fairness, Max Verstappen managed to find the pace he needed in the closing stages of the race, which helped him to finish fifth.

The conspiracy theorists suggested that a new FIA technical directive, which was designed to clamp down on flexible bodywork, hurt Red Bull. The team denied this. Christian Horner, the Red Bull principal, said F1 is a complicated sport and their rare failure could not be put down to one thing. Horner said it was also possible that their car did not suit the street circuit of Singapore.

Whatever the reason, no one expects them to be off the pace this weekend in Japan, where they can pick up the constructors' title. Verstappen's 151-point lead over his team-mate, Sergio Pérez, means that he will have to wait until the race in Qatar for his first shot at becoming a triple world champion.

"I still think their record is going to be up there in the remaining races and they're going to be very, very, very, very difficult to beat," Sainz said.

Wolff agrees with the Ferrari driver. "Just because they dropped the ball [in Singapore], when we go back to the traditional tracks, Suzuka especially, there's a pretty good chance the normal pecking order is back," Wolff said.

Red Bull will undoubtedly bounce back but it is likely there will be more gripping races such as Singapore to come because Ferrari, Mercedes and McLaren are going to be pushing them all the way.



Norris celebrates claiming second place in Singapore

Redcar
Rob Wright

1.50 Powerful Response
2.25 Salvuccio
3.00 Elzaal
3.35 Stressfree
4.10 Claim The Stars
4.45 Plink
5.20 Lincoln Rockstar

Going: good to firm
Draw: no advantage — Racing TV

1.50 Handicap (£4,187: 1m) (12 runners)
1 (11) 02350 FORWARD FLIGHT 68 (D) K P De Foy 4-10-2 Morgan Cole
2 (3) 65534 COPPER AND FIVE 24 (P,CD) K R Carr 7-10-2 Mia Nicholls (3)
3 (7) 42345 POET'S DAWN 17 (D) T Easterby 8-10-1 A Young (7)
4 (8) 12230 BIRD OF PLAY 32 I Furtado 3-10-0 Elle-May Croot (3)
5 (9) 31600 RIEVAULX RAVER 33 (P,D) R Fell & S Murray 3-9-13 S Feilden (3)
6 (2) 01124 POWERFUL RESPONSE 30 (D) E Bethell 3-9-12 A Brookes
7 (1) 00P52 LOOM LARGE 12 (T) I Jardine 4-9-10 W Pyle (3)
8 (10) 3320U FIFTY SENT 33 (BF) M Dods 4-9-10 R Elliott (7)
9 (4) -0520 STARSHOT 18 J Bedi 3-9-8 J Leavy (5)
10 (5) 11013 PREMIERSHIP 31 (BF,D) M Wigham 4-9-5 Z Wheatley
11 (6) 00102 TACITUS 20 (T,CD) T Collier 5-9-4 A Voikhansky
12 (12) 34650 MOTARAJEL 14 (P,D) T Easterby 6-8-11 Amie Waugh

5-1 Fifty Sent, 11-2 Poet's Dawn, 6-1 Copper And Five, 8-1 Premiership, Powerful Response, Loom Large, Bird Of Play, 10-1 Tacitus, Rievaulx Raver.

Rob Wright's choice: Powerful Response returns to turf after a fair fourth at Southwell **Dangers** Tacitus, Premiership

2.25 Novice Stakes (2-Y-O: £4,320: 5f) (13)
1 (10) 3 CIRCUS LION 14 B Smart 9-7 G Lee
2 (6) 0 CUBAN STORM 32 M Dods 9-7 C Beasley
3 (8) 4 EMERALD ARMY 30 D Carroll 9-7 B McHugh
4 (2) HARDMAN D & N Barron 9-7 B Curtis
5 (4) 31 HAVANA ROSE 18 E Bethell 9-7 C Rodriguez
6 (3) 6 PALS BATTALION 45 D O'Meara 9-7 J Watson
7 (13) 52 SALVUCCIO 27 (BF) G Boughey 9-7 B Loughnane
8 (7) 30 SI SI SENOR 66 (T) D Loughnane 9-7 S James
9 (5) 0532 TOWNSEND MANOR 22 K P De Foy 9-7 D Allan
10 (11) 6 ELEGANT CALL 14 T Easterby 9-2 J Hart
11 (9) 0 CLIONIA 24 Gemma Tutty 8-12 A Mullen
12 (1) 0 RENEWABLE QUEEN 24 Gemma Tutty 8-12 S Gray
13 (12) 0 SPIN OFF 24 D Carroll 8-12 Z Wheatley (5)

11-4 Townsend Manor, 100-30 Havana Rose, 4-1 Salvuccio, 13-2 Circus Lion, 8-1 Hardman, 14-1 Cuban Storm, 16-1 Si Si Senor, Pals Battalion.

Wright choice: Salvuccio missed the break when a good second at Bath **Dangers** Townsend Manor, Havana Rose

3.00 Handicap (£3,664: 5f) (15)
1 (3) 55522 BIRKENHEAD 22 (P,D) P Midgley 6-10-0 R Sexton (3)
2 (9) 20011 EMERALDS PRIDE 23 (P,D) M Dods 4-9-12 C Beasley
3 (10) 05512 PEPSI CAT 13 (T,D) Steph Hollinshead 4-9-12 D Costello
4 (5) 55005 GOOD LUCK FOX 29 (D) P Midgley 7-9-9 C Hardie
5 (11) 04006 GOLDEN RAINBOW 17 (H,D) P Midgley 4-9-8 B McHugh
6 (14) 00653 ELZAAL 23 (D) P Midgley 5-9-7 G Lee
7 (1) 00-0 FIELD OF VIEW 85 (P) J J Quinn 3-9-6 J Hart
8 (7) 03510 SIXCOR 12 (P,D) Miss L Perratt 5-9-6 A Breslin (3)
9 (2) 12666 SPANISH ANGEL 10 (D) R Carr 6-9-5 JP Sullivan
10 (6) 45424 JOHN KIRKUP 17 (B,BF,D) D Thompson 8-9-5 Doubtful
11 (8) 55401 OPAL STORM 12 (D) C Fairhurst 3-9-3 A Brookes (5)
12 (4) 06-05 HE'S AN ANGEL 12 (P,T) T Easterby 3-9-2 D Allan
13 (15) 0-540 GARIFULLINA 121 J J Davies 3-9-2 Amie Waugh (5)
14 (13) 65302 THE GREY LASS 21 (D) M & D Easterby 4-8-9 S Gray
15 (12) 54063 CANARIA PRINCE 12 (P,D) T Easterby 5-8-8 D Fentiman

9-2 Pepsi Cat, 5-1 Emeralds Pride, 15-2 Birkenhead, 10-1 Spanish Angel, The Grey Lass, Elzaal, Field of View, Canaria Prince.

Wright choice: Elzaal returned to form at Beverley; he is well treated **Dangers** Opal Storm, Golden Rainbow

3.35 Handicap (£5,051: 1m 2f) (7)
1 (7) 10001 RON O 24 (C) R Craggs 5-10-1 R Sexton (3)
2 (2) 10000 SKILLED WARRIOR 31 (P) G Tuer 5-9-8 S James
3 (1) 15-51 FORCEFUL SPEED 86 (T,D) G Boughey 3-9-8 B Loughnane
4 (4) 210 STRESSFREE 83 D O'Meara 3-9-8 J Watson
5 (6) 22005 BRINGBACKMEMORIES 18 (T,BF,D) I Jardine 4-9-4 A Mullen
6 (3) 30635 HIGHWAYGREY 9 (P,D) T Easterby 7-9-2 D Allan
7 (5) 33632 FLIGHT OF ANGELS 15 (BF,D) C Johnston 3-8-13 J Hart

9-4 Ron O, 100-30 Forceful Speed, 5-1 Stressfree, Flight Of Angels, 6-1 Bringbackmemories, 10-1 Highwaygrey, 25-1 Skilled Warrior.

Wright choice: Stressfree, a winner in France, can make a successful start for his new yard **Danger** Flight Of Angels

4.10 Handicap (£5,051: 6f) (15)
1 (8) 04460 VENTUROUS 38 (C,D) D & N Barron 10-9-13 B Curtis
2 (3) 31130 CROW'S NEST 41 (P,BF,D) G Boughey 3-9-12 B Loughnane
3 (7) 13003 SECRET GUEST 19 (D) B Smart 3-9-10 G Lee
4 (14) 12004 SPARKLING RED 19 (C) M Dods 3-9-9 C Beasley
5 (10) 35066 KHABIB 18 (P) R Craggs 5-9-8 R Sexton (3)
6 (15) 60235 CRYPTO QUEST 13 (D) I W McInnes 4-9-4 P Mathers
7 (9) 23023 IMPELLER 21 (T,BF,D) T Easterby 5-9-3 D Fentiman
8 (11) 5-200 HAIL SEZER 74 (CD) G Harker 6-9-3 S James
9 (13) 01546 GOLDEN DUKE 14 (D) N Tinkler 4-9-3 F McManoman
10 (12) 1-241 MERESIDE DIVA 112 (D) D & N Barron 3-9-1 C Rodriguez
11 (4) 05402 JOJO RABBIT 7 (P) R Carr 5-9-0 JP Sullivan
12 (6) -3626 CAPTAIN VALLO 30 (P,D) Phillip Makin 5-9-0 S Gray
13 (2) 02012 DREAM DEAL 12 (P,T,BF,D) D Brooke 4-8-12 J Hart
14 (5) 00160 CLAIM THE STARS 30 (T,D) T Easterby 4-8-9 D Allan
15 (1) 35003 HURSTWOOD 14 (CD) P Niven 6-8-7 C Hardie

11-2 Impeller, 13-2 Secret Guest, 7-1 Jojo Rabbit, 10-1 Mereside Diva, Sparkling Red, Hurstwood, Captain Vallo, Khabib.

Wright choice: Claim The Stars can bounce back after being badly drawn at Pontefract **Dangers** Jojo Rabbit, Impeller

4.45 Novice Stakes (£4,320: 6f) (8)
1 (8) 0 CAPTAIN BENTLEY 15 M Mullineaux 4-9-7 G Lee
2 (5) 05 FLETCHER'S FLIGHT 6 P McBride 3-9-5 A Farragher (3)
3 (6) 04 GREENWICH 33 R Menzies 3-9-5 Jason Watson
4 (2) PLINK W Haggas 3-9-5 C Fallon
5 (3) 0 SHAKA 17 J Ward 3-9-5 G Sanna (5)
6 (4) 55 SHOTLEY ROYALE 27 R Carr 3-9-5 JP Sullivan
7 (1) 65 SIR SIDNEY SMITH 19 Steph Hollinshead 3-9-5 D Costello
8 (7) LA JOLIE FILLE M & D Easterby 3-9-0 S Gray

8-15 Plink, 6-1 Shotley Royale, 13-2 Greenwich, 10-1 Fletcher's Flight, 14-1 La Jolie Fille, 20-1 Sir Sidney Smith, 50-1 Shaka, Captain Bentley.

Wright choice: Plink, from a winning family, makes his debut in a poor race **Dangers** La Jolie Fille, Fletchers Flight

5.20 Handicap (£3,664: 1m 6f) (10)
1 (3) 0040 ALANINE 24 (T) J J Davies 4-10-4 Amie Waugh (5)
2 (7) 66652 MERRIJIG 12 J Berry 5-10-4 B Curtis
3 (9) 22250 HAVEN LADY 24 (B) J J Quinn 5-10-4 J Hart
4 (5) 20654 DESERT QUEST 10 (P,CD) Ewan Whillans 5-9-9 A Mullen
5 (6) 24055 JAMIH 7 (V) Miss T Jackson 8-9-9 R Sexton (3)
6 (8) 00042 ASSEMBLED 19 (T) M Rimell 7-9-6 G Lee
7 (4) 50545 BAMBOO BAY 12 (P) M Kirby 5-9-5 C Beasley
8 (10) 34263 LINCOLN ROCKSTAR 14 (C) D O'Meara 3-9-3 J Watson
9 (1) 0660 LADY BRACKEN 29 C Johnston 3-9-3 A Young (7)
10 (2) /506- COEUR DE COEURS 447 N Mechie 4-9-2 A Breslin (3)

11-4 Merrijig, 7-2 Assembled, 5-1 Lincoln Rockstar, 6-1 Bamboo Bay, 8-1 Haven Lady, 10-1 Desert Quest, Jamih, 16-1 Lady Bracken.

Wright choice: Lincoln Rockstar steps up in trip after a staying-on third at Ripon **Dangers** Assembled, Merrijig

Newcastle
Rob Wright

4.50 Dame Sarra
5.25 Curran
6.00 Balqaa
6.30 Karroor
7.00 Royal Elysian
7.30 Sun Power
8.00 Patontheback
8.30 Spirit Of Bowland

Going: standard
Draw: no advantage — Sky Sports Racing

4.50 Handicap (£3,245: 1m 4f) (10)
1 (8) -0006 EBONY MAW 45 Ewan Whillans 6-9-11 P J McDonald
2 (10) 22440 IVY AVENUE 10 (V) M Appleby 6-9-9 A Rawlinson
3 (4) 6660 J C INTERNATIONAL 7 (P) R Fell & S Murray 4-9-7 J Peate (3)
4 (3) 51335 INDICATION ROCKET 35 (T,C) R Menzies 3-9-3 P Mulrennan
5 (5) 05534 TIMEWAVE 24 (D) C Johnston 3-9-3 O Stammers
6 (1) 03060 GREAT COLACI 35 (C,D) G Boanas 10-9-3 J Fanning
7 (6) 0/561 TOSCAN GENIUS 11 (H,CD) B Ellison 6-9-2 B Robinson
8 (2) -2440 MARCELLO SI 39 M Dods 5-9-0 C Lee
9 (9) 50055 CINCO SALTOS 19 (P) O Greenall & J Guerriero 4-8-13 H Russell
10 (7) 42162 DAME SARRA 18 (B,D) E Dunlop 3-8-10 H Doyle

5-2 Toscan Genius, 7-2 Dame Sarra, 13-2 Indication Rocket, 7-1 Marcello Si, 8-1 Timewave, 10-1 Cinco Saltos, 12-1 Ivy Avenue, 14-1 Ebony Maw.

5.25 Novice Stakes (2-Y-O: £3,564: 1m 2f) (6)
1 (5) 1040 LIGHTNING LEO 34 (P) A Watson 9-11 H Doyle
2 (1) 4 CURRAN 18 C Johnston 9-4 J Fanning
3 (6) SIR GEOFF HURST C Johnston 9-4 O Stammers
4 (4) 2 THE HUN 31 K R Burke 9-4 C Lee
5 (2) TRYFAN B Ellison 9-4 B Robinson
6 (3) 000 WHITE LINES 18 R Fell & S Murray 8-13 J Peate (3)

Evens The Hun, 4-1 Lightning Leo, 5-1 Curran, 6-1 Tryfan, 8-1 Sir Geoff Hurst, 100-1 White Lines.

6.00 Handicap (£3,245: 1m 2f) (10)
1 (9) 13220 PRINCE ACHILLE 11 J O'Keeffe 4-10-1 J Garritty
2 (3) 60042 BALQAA 8 (CD) Mrs Stella Barclay 5-10-0 C Howarth (5)
3 (5) 05231 OSCAR DOODLE 19 (CD) B Ellison 4-10-0 B Robinson
4 (1) 40012 WE STILL BELIEVE 14 (CD) D Bourke 5-9-13 P J McDonald
5 (3) 23061 CHILD OF LIR 8 (P,C) R Menzies 3-9-12 (6ex) A Rawlinson
6 (4) 64315 METRIC 21 (H,D) D O'Meara 3-9-11 M Winn (3)
7 (10) 64000 COCONUT BAY 8 (H,T,D) T Davidson 4-9-8 D Nolan
8 (8) 00005 BAWAADER 95 D Thompson 8-9-7 H Doyle
9 (6) 000-0 STAND FREE 258 (H,C) I Furtado 6-9-5 W Carver (3)
10 (7) 03666 ANA EMARAATY 8 (B) J Goldie 3-9-0 P Mulrennan

9-4 Oscar Doodle, 4-1 Balqaa, 5-1 We Still Believe, 8-1 Metric, Child Of Lir, 10-1 Ana Emaraaty, 14-1 Coconut Bay, Bawaader, Prince Achille, 33-1 Stand Free.

6.30 Nursery (2-Y-O: £3,245: 7f) (11)
1 (8) 40001 HAVANA PRINCE 8 (C) T Coyle 10-0 (6ex) D Nolan
2 (3) 336 ARIZONA DESERT 56 (T) D F Davis 9-11 O Lewis (7)
3 (11) 04055 SOCIALISE 18 N Tinkler 9-9 R Scott
4 (8) 455 KORROOR 18 A Watson 9-9 H Doyle
5 (4) 50625 WHATWOULDIKNOW 27 (BF) N Tinkler 9-9 A Jary (7)
6 (9) 0405 LIKLEMAN 21 C Johnston 9-8 J Fanning
7 (7) 30064 HOORAY FOR HAZEL 8 (P) R Fahey 9-6 Oisin Orr
8 (1) 006 LIKEASHADOW 10 A Brown 9-6 C Lee
9 (10) 00600 AMAYRETTO 39 T Easterby 9-5 S B Kirrane
10 (6) 0065 BALMANZOR 8 O Greenall & J Guerriero 9-0 H Russell
11 (5) 500 THE MAN FROM LOULE 22 D Carroll 8-12 T Eaves

9-2 Havana Prince, 6-1 Korroor, Arizona Desert, 13-2 Hooray For Hazel, 7-1 Whatwouldiknow, Balmanzor, 8-1 Socialise, 10-1 Likleman.

7.00 Novice Stakes (2-Y-O: £3,564: 6f) (11)
1 (10) ALIBI WARNING R Fahey 9-2 Oisin Orr
2 (8) 4 DIANARA 33 K P De Foy 9-2 P J McDonald
3 (2) 64 JUNGLE JEAN 18 K Scott 9-2 J Fanning
4 (1) LAST APPLAUSE B Ellison 9-2 B Robinson
5 (9) LEVERET R Fahey 9-2 J Garritty
6 (6) 0 LINCOLN'S INN 18 M Herrington 9-2 T Eaves
7 (11) 2 NASNEEN 20 P & O Cole 9-2 C Lee
8 (5) OUR MELODY A Watson 9-2 H Doyle
9 (7) 0 PLEASE PLEASE ME 11 P Kirby 9-2 B Garritty
10 (3) ROYAL CITY T Davidson 9-2 M Winn (3)
11 (4) 224 ROYAL ELYSIAN 54 (BF) J Ferguson 9-2 S Osborne

5-2 Royal Elysian, 3-1 Dianara, 5-1 Our Melody, Nasneen, 8-1 Alibi Warning, 12-1 Jungle Jean, Leveret, 25-1 Last Applause.

7.30 Handicap (Div I: £3,873: 7f) (12)
1 (6) 01412 YOSHIMI 27 (P,D) M Herrington 6-9-13 T Eaves
2 (2) 66326 LOVE YOUR WORK 81 (D) R Menzies 7-9-12 C Bennett
3 (10) 00442 SUN POWER 11 (V,BF,D) A Brown 6-9-11 R Scott
4 (3) 51020 RAVEN'S APPLAUSE 54 (B) E Dunlop 3-9-11 P Mulrennan
5 (1) 21300 NAASER 11 (H,D) R Fell & S Murray 3-9-10 J Peate (3)
6 (12) 503R0 VINDOBALA 19 (T,CD) S England 5-9-9 Oisin Orr
7 (4) -4530 CANDY WARHOL 166 S Dixon 4-9-9 H Doyle
8 (9) 54203 HARBOUR VISION 10 (V,D) S Dixon 8-9-5 Elisha Whittington (5)
9 (11) -0006 CEPHALUS 17 (P,C,D) G L Moore 4-9-4 T P Queally
10 (7) 32340 SAISONS D'OR 21 (CD) J O'Keeffe 8-9-2 J Garritty
11 (8) 64050 MIN TILL 13 (H,D) M & D Easterby 4-9-1 Doubtful
12 (5) 40200 LILY IN THE JUNGLE 14 (P) P Kirby 3-9-0 B Garritty

3-1 Yoshimi, 100-30 Sun Power, 6-1 Love Your Work, 15-2 Vindobala, Raven's Applause, 10-1 Harbour Vision, Saisons D'Or, 16-1 Candy Warhol.

8.00 Handicap (Div II: £3,873: 7f) (11)
1 (10) -6000 ELDRICKJONES 68 (V) R Fell & S Murray 4-9-13 J Peate (3)
2 (8) 4002- SYCAMORE 277 S Dixon 6-9-12 C Lee
3 (9) 21305 RAMIRO 19 (D) B Ellison 7-9-11 B Robinson
4 (4) 14006 JUST JANET 14 (D) D O'Meara 3-9-10 D Nolan
5 (1) 20600 VERONA STAR 10 (P,T,CD) A Watson 4-9-10 H Doyle
6 (5) 40123 PATONTHEBACK 19 (CD) Gemma Tutty 5-9-9 C Hutchinson (3)
7 (11) 01316 INVESTED 103 (D) S Spencer 3-9-8 D Swift
8 (2) 55500 MR SQUIRES 30 (D) R Fell & S Murray 3-9-5 J Fanning
9 (7) 04234 SLIPPIN JIMMY 11 (P,CD) R Fahey 3-9-3 Oisin Orr
10 (3) 42023 BOBBY JOE LEG 127 (CD) R Carr 9-9-2 Joanna Mason
11 (6) 03000 REGINALD CHARLES 19 B Smart 3-9-0 H Russell

9-2 Patontheback, 11-2 Just Janet, 6-1 Bobby Joe Leg, Ramiro, 13-2 Slippin Jimmy, 7-1 Eldrickjones, 8-1 Sycamore, 12-1 Invested.

8.30 Handicap (£3,245: 1m) (14)
1 (4) 00056 IBIZA ROCKS 22 (B,T) O Greenall & J Guerriero 5-10-0 H Russell
2 (14) 65030 CUSACK 73 (P,C,D) D Thompson 5-10-0 J Peate (3)
3 (10) 00001 ABSOLUTE DREAM 14 (C,D) R Fahey 7-9-13 C Murtagh
4 (3) -4111 SPIRIT OF BOWLAND 140 (CD) Mrs Stella Barclay 4-9-13 C Howarth (5)
5 (2) 50300 ATLANTIC HEART 21 P Midgley 4-9-12 D Nolan
6 (9) 45200 MARTIN'S BRIG 33 (B) D Thompson 6-9-10 S B Kirrane
7 (11) 5300 STORMY DENISE 36 (B) J Ferguson 3-9-10 S Osborne
8 (6) 51262 MR STRUTTER 11 (CD) D Thompson 9-9-9 A Elliott
9 (8) 24302 MASHAM MOOR 35 (CD) C Fairhurst 6-9-7 Paula Muir (3)
10 (1) 06310 POP FAVORITE 23 (B,CD) S Dixon 5-9-6 Elisha Whittington (5)
11 (7) 05061 EXPLORERS WAY 11 (P,CD) B Ellison 4-9-6 B Robinson
12 (5) 53210 ROCKIN ROSIE 11 (P,C) R Carr 3-9-5 Joanna Mason
13 (13) 40000 RED SHIELD 38 (T) W Coltherd 3-9-2 B Garritty
14 (12) 25403 GIRL FROM ITALY 22 M Walford 3-9-0 H Doyle

4-1 Spirit Of Bowland, 13-2 Explorers Way, 7-1 Mr Strutter, Masham Moor, 8-1 Absolute Dream, 10-1 Atlantic Heart, 12-1 Girl From Italy, Pop Favorite.

Uttoxeter
Rob Wright

2.00 Blazing Court
2.35 Olivers Travels
3.10 Ya Know Yaseff
3.45 Do No Wrong
4.20 Isabella Bee (nap)
4.55 Ragamuffin

Going: hurdle: good, good to soft in places; chase: good to soft, good in places — Sky Sports Racing

2.00 Handicap Hurdle (£3,406: 2m 7f) (15)
1 0P-52 BLAZING COURT 62 (P) M Keighley 5-12-0 H Atkins (10)
2 0-465 CAME FROM NOTHING 28 Jonjo O'Neill 5-11-13 J Hogan
3 403-2 ALIOSKI F20 (T,BF) G Brown 6-11-13 Isabelle Ryder (10)
4 F-452 SEEFIN 53 D Skelton 6-11-12 T Durrell (3)
5 -1355 SIR JACK WEST 21 (H,T) Deborah Cole 7-11-5 C Ward
6 122F3 BLUEBELLA 20 (T) T Lacey 5-11-3 C Iles (10)
7 04P32 PUNCHES CROSS 18 (P) Jonjo O'Neill 10-10-13 B Macey (10)
8 34P-3 REDBRIDGE ROSIE 18 (H) S Humphrey 6-10-8 B Harris
9 -6614 DAKOTA BEAT 13 (T,D) J Norton 8-10-7 J Williamson
10 325-5 RUMBLE B 13 (T) Justin Landy 9-10-7 J Thompson (7)
11 4-040 ROBBIE DAZZLER 71 M Scudamore 6-10-5 P W Wadge
12 -2346 BLACK LIGHTNING 44 (B,BF) Georgie Howell 10-10-5 Tabitha Worsley
13 065 THRIFTY SCOT 17 (T) P Hobbs & J White 6-10-2 Elizabeth Gale (10)
14 544-4 MEECHLANDS MAGIC 18 D Hamer 7-10-2 J A Anderson
15 P-036 KIMBERLEY EVE 71 (P) S Earle 5-10-2 C Ring

5-1 Alioski, 11-2 Bluebella, 6-1 Blazing Court, 13-2 Punches Cross, 7-1 Dakota Beat, 10-1 Seefin, Black Lightning, 12-1 Came From Nothing.

2.35 Novices' Hurdle (£4,357: 2m) (12)
1 -1131 OLIVERS TRAVELS 16 (D) P Bowen 5-11-7 S Bowen
2 101 JEUDIDEE 21 (T,D) K Bailey 4-11-5 D Bass
3 0 KINGSON 20 A Forbes 7-11-0 P Armson (3)
4 05/ NIGHT BEAR F17 A Carroll 6-11-0 Lilly Pinchin (3)
5 5B POINT OF HONOUR 12 Craig Lidster 8-11-0 Miss P Brown (7)
6 -3250 THORPENESS 53 (H,T) B Summers 5-11-0 C Hammond
7 000U- TWP STORI 162 (H) S Drinkwater 5-11-0 R T Dunne
8 2344 FOOTLOOSE MAN 20 R Hobson 4-10-12 G Sheehan
9 3 HOPEFORTHEBEST 20 S Edmunds 4-10-12 C Gethings
10 JEAN DANJOU F141 J Coulson 4-10-12 M Kendrick
11 352- WILLIETHEBUILDER 147 D Skelton 4-10-12 H Skelton
12 444-0 PETIT BIJOU 65 M Roberts 6-10-7 Bryony Frost

6-4 Williethebuilder, 100-30 Olivers Travels, 7-2 Jeudidee, 12-1 Hopeforthebest, Thorpeness, 14-1 Footloose Man, 20-1 Jean Danjou, Night Bear.

3.10 Handicap Chase (£3,406: 3m) (9)
1 P446- DRAGONFRUIT 193 (P,D) O Greenall & J Guerriero 8-12-0 T Wynne (5)
2 1324U CRESSWELL QUEEN 16 (H,T,D) D Hamer 8-11-7 H Reed
3 F-2P4 REBEL LEADER 31 (B,T) Dr R Newland 9-11-1 C Hammond
4 4-P11 YA KNOW YASEFF 8 (B,T) D Pipe 6-10-10 J Tudor
5 52123 JUSTSHORTOFABUBBLE 16 (P,T,BF) G Harris 6-10-10 B R Jones
6 65540 BARELY FAMOUS 49 (T) R Potter 7-10-9 C Quinn (5)
7 /0P0- P BERNARD 145 S Allwood 7-10-4 A Johns
8 -U626 LOUGH SALT 20 (P,D) P Winks 12-10-2 J Kington
9 -PP63 OUT FOR THE COUNT 18 (V) J Candlish 5-10-2 L Stones (3)

5-4 Ya Know Yaseff, 3-1 Justshortofabubble, 6-1 Cresswell Queen, 12-1 Lough Salt, 14-1 Rebel Leader, Dragonfruit, 16-1 Barely Famous, 20-1 others.

3.45 Handicap Chase (£6,337: 3m) (8)
1 220-1 DIEU VIVANT 14 (P,T,D) O Greenall & J Guerriero 10-12-0 T Wynne (5)
2 -3231 ANY NEWS 16 (P,T) N Mulholland 8-12-0 H Cobden
3 -6423 TOPOFTHECOTSWOLDS 46 (P) N Twiston-Davies 9-11-10 S Twiston-Davies
4 4/522 JESUITIQUE 29 Dr R Newland 8-11-9 C Hammond
5 51126 JUDGE EARLE 21 (P,BF,CD) P Bowen 11-11-9 S Bowen
6 603-6 RISK AND ROLL 122 (P) H Evans 9-11-7 Tabitha Worsley (3)
7 /2222 POLISH 16 (P) F O'Brien 8-11-4 L Harrison
8 1F411 DO NO WRONG 20 (CD) Justin Landy 7-10-6 J Kington

7-2 Do No Wrong, 4-1 Dieu Vivant, Any News, 7-1 Polish, Jesuitique, 15-2 Topofthecotswolds, Judge Earle, 14-1 Risk And Roll.

4.20 Handicap Hurdle (£4,225: 2m) (6)
1 5632- IP UP 210 J O'Keeffe 5-12-0 C Nichol
2 6-533 ADDOSH 47 (T,D) S Edmunds 5-11-13 C Gethings
3 10-32 POP THE CHAMPAGNE F32 (T,D) D Killahena & G McPherson 7-11-13 Bryony Frost
4 33610 ON CLOUD NINE 29 (T) D McCain 5-11-0 B Hughes
5 43U42 KARANNELLE 8 (H,T,D) D Rees 8-11-0 S Bowen
6 6-421 ISABELLA BEE 6 (CD) F O'Brien 6-10-13 P Brennan

13-8 Isabella Bee, 4-1 Karannelle, 9-2 Pop The Champagne, 6-1 Ip Up, 7-1 Addosh, 10-1 On Cloud Nine.

4.55 Handicap Hurdle (£4,225: 2m 4f) (9)
1 0-322 SACCHOANDVANZETTI 20 (T,BF) F O'Brien 7-12-0 D Davis (7)
2 5F421 PRESENTING PETE 20 (CD) J Mackie 6-11-10 B Hughes
3 2131/ IBBENBUREN 716 D McCain 7-11-9 T Gillard
4 -0552 RAGAMUFFIN 21 (P,T,C) N Mulholland 8-11-7 S Twiston-Davies
5 P/PP- ROUND THE BUOY 144 S Drinkwater 8-11-7 R T Dunne
6 42-01 DEMOCRITUS 21 (T,D) Miss J Davis 5-11-7 G Sheehan
7 04-00 NEIGH BOTHA 90 (T) O Greenall & J Guerriero 6-11-4 C Nichol
8 2055/ HOWLING MILAN 729 S Drinkwater 9-11-3 N Fox (5)
9 5PP-0 HEROSS DU SEUIL 21 (P) R Potter 6-11-2 F Lambert (5)

5-2 Presenting Pete, 100-30 Sacchoandvanzetti, 5-1 Democritus, Ragamuffin, 11-2 Ibbenburen, 12-1 Howling Milan, 20-1 Round The Buoy, 25-1 others.

Yarmouth
Rob Wright

2.15 Rosenzoo
2.50 Witness Stand
3.25 Manhattan Mirage
4.00 Prometeo (nb)
4.35 Miss Bella Brand
5.10 Wintercrack
5.45 Gemini Star
6.15 Snow Berry

Going: good to soft, good in places
Draw: no advantage — Sky Sports Racing

2.15 Nursery (2-Y-O: £4,397: 7f) (8)
1 (3) 54431 ROSENZOO 6 C Johnston 10-0 (6ex) W Buick
2 (6) 60441 LINE SHEET 7 (D) G Scott 9-12 (6ex) D Muscutt
3 (8) 456 ZARIELA 24 S P C Woods 9-8 R Havlin
4 (7) 55035 THE BITTER MOOSE 12 H Palmer 9-7 T Marquand
5 (1) 00403 JOHN STEED 12 D Loughnane 9-7 Rossa Ryan
6 (4) 04003 ANONYMOUS GUEST 7 G Margarson 9-6 L Morris
7 (2) 06023 ALFRED 6 P Chapple-Hyam 9-5 J F Egan
8 (5) 5030 COGSWORTH 12 C Dwyer 9-4 S Cherchi

11-4 Rosenzoo, 3-1 Line Sheet, 6-1 Alfred, 13-2 Anonymous Guest, 7-1 The Bitter Moose, 8-1 John Steed, Zariela, 33-1 Cogsworth.

2.50 Novice Stakes (Div I: 2-Y-O: £6,426: 6f) (10)
1 (2) 16 WITNESS STAND 49 Tom Clover 9-7 D Tudhope
2 (3) BERRY CLEVER C Dwyer 9-4 S Cherchi
3 (9) 06 CLOUD KING 27 R Cowell 9-4 J P Spencer
4 (4) 00 FAUNTLEROY 12 S & E Crisford 9-4 R Coakley
5 (7) FINE INTERVIEW Alice Haynes 9-4 K O'Neill
6 (5) 0 SALA DA BALLO 24 G Boughey 9-4 W Buick
7 (8) SON OF MAN J Chapple-Hyam 9-4 David Egan
8 (1) TRUE BLUE GENT (T) M Botti 9-4 N Callan
9 (6) ZALTALLA J Ferguson 9-4 D Muscutt
10 (10) 5 NOTRE DAME 25 J Feilden 8-13 D Hogan

10-11 Witness Stand, 8-1 Son Of Man, 10-1 Fine Interview, Sala Da Ballo, 12-1 True Blue Gent, Cloud King, 14-1 Notre Dame, Zaltalla, Fauntleroy, 33-1 Berry Clever.

Dance runners banned

John Dance, who owned multiple group one winner Laurens and part-owned Cheltenham Gold Cup runner-up Bravemansgame, cannot race any of his horses after being banned by the British Horseracing Authority. In June, it was reported that Dance was being investigated by the Financial Conduct Authority over alleged fraud and money laundering relating to his company, WealthTek, which ceased trading in April.

3.25 Novice Stakes (Div II: 2-Y-O: £6,426: 6f) (9)
1 (5) CROSS THE TRACKS R Spencer 9-7 N Callan
2 (9) 0 DARK DREAMER 49 R Cowell 9-7 M Ghiani
3 (4) GAMBLERS KITTY C Dwyer 9-7 S Cherchi
4 (8) 034 INFINITY BLUE 17 (BF) A Balding 9-7 W Buick
5 (7) 3 MANHATTAN MIRAGE 18 (BF) Alice Haynes 9-7 Rossa Ryan
6 (6) 00 MONTECRISTO GOLD 24 Tom Clover 9-7 R Coakley
7 (2) MUKAAFAH K P De Foy 9-7 J Crowley
8 (3) 00 PRINCE ERIC 24 J Ferguson 9-7 D Muscutt
9 (1) WARSONG S bin Suroor 9-7 K Stott

15-8 Manhattan Mirage, 9-4 Infinity Blue, 9-2 Warsong, 5-1 Mukaafah, 16-1 Dark Dreamer, 25-1 Montecristo Gold, Gamblers Kitty, 33-1 Prince Eric, Cross The Tracks.

4.00 Maiden Stakes (2-Y-O: £3,559: 1m 1f) (8)
1 (5) MASTERLY C Johnston 9-7 W Buick
2 (1) CAPLA MOJO G Kelleway 9-5 L Morris
3 (8) 3 PROMETEO 20 M Botti 9-5 N Callan
4 (4) 04 TIPSY TIGER 20 W Stone 9-5 K Shoemark
5 (3) 0 ASHARIBA 23 D Menuisier 9-2 J P Spencer
6 (2) 44 DANCING EYES 18 Miss A Murphy 9-0 T Marquand
7 (3) 05 FREE SPEECH 18 E Dunlop 9-0 R Havlin
8 (7) 0 SHARONA 25 P Chapple-Hyam 9-0 J F Egan

11-4 Prometeo, 4-1 Masterly, 9-2 Dancing Eyes, 5-1 Tipsy Tiger, 7-1 Free Speech, 15-2 Ashariba, 10-1 Sharona, 33-1 Capla Mojo.

4.35 Handicap (£9,936: 6f) (10)
1 (2) 33101 NOOR BANO 39 (D) I Mohammed 3-9-11 J Smith
2 (5) 61-0 DEMI POINTE 30 (D) R Varian 3-9-9 David Egan
3 (1) 6-034 KATEY KONTENT 12 C Cox 3-9-6 Rossa Ryan
4 (7) 20500 CUBAN BREEZE 12 (V,D) P Evans 5-9-3 N Callan
5 (10) 33331 MUSICAL TRIBUTE 17 (B,D) Harry Eustace 3-9-2 H Turner
6 (6) 41100 MISS BELLA BRAND 66 (D) Mrs I G-Leveque 5-9-0 G Wood
7 (4) 30010 PREMIERE BEAUTY 24 (CD) S C Williams 3-8-12 M Ghiani
8 (8) 01112 MISS MAI TAI 37 (BF,D) J Fanshawe 3-8-11 C Shepherd
9 (9) 00010 ALCAZAN 12 (D) R Teal 5-8-9 W Carson
10 (3) 21401 CATWALK MODEL 23 (CD) Miss A Murphy 3-8-7 F Larson (3)

9-2 Musical Tribute, 5-1 Miss Mai Tai, 11-2 Noor Bano, 6-1 Catwalk Model, 13-2 Demi Pointe, Katey Kontent, 10-1 Miss Bella Brand, 12-1 Alcazan.

5.10 Handicap (£5,653: 1m 2f) (12)
1 (3) 02360 TUXEDO JUNCTION 33 (D) J Fanshawe 4-10-2 D Muscutt
2 (7) 33005 PHANTASY MAC 17 (P,D) G Boughey 4-9-12 W Buick
3 (8) 0-545 BAND OF STEEL 20 (H,T,BF) S P C Woods 3-9-11 D Egan
4 (10) 40343 TARBAAN 21 (P,T,BF,D) Miss A Murphy 4-9-10 K Stott
5 (5) 32510 FOREST DEMON 21 (P,T,D) D & C Kubler 3-9-9 J Crowley
6 (11) 4312 BATTISTA 48 (H,BF) J & T Gosden 3-9-9 R Havlin
7 (12) 23-16 BOLD RIBB 38 (P) J Ryan 4-9-8 J Mitchell
8 (6) 11141 PANNING FOR GOLD 30 (C) D M Simcock 3-9-8 J P Spencer
9 (2) 51561 QUEEN'S COMPANY 34 (CD) J Feilden 4-9-5 D Hogan
10 (4) 44110 ABSOLUTE QUEEN 64 (P,D) G Boughey 3-9-4 T Marquand
11 (1) 10636 WINTERCRACK 32 (D) Mrs P Sly 3-9-3 S W Kelly
12 (9) 20606 TARITINO 27 (H) Miss A Murphy 3-9-1 S Cherchi

4-1 Battista, 11-2 Panning For Gold, 13-2 Queen's Company, 7-1 Tarbaan, 8-1 Band Of Steel, 10-1 Tuxedo Junction, Absolute Queen, Forest Demon.

5.45 Handicap (£5,653: 5f) (11)
1 (9) 25240 VESPASIAN 80 (T) S & E Crisford 4-9-11 J Doyle
2 (5) 43123 RAZZAM 12 (CD) M Appleby 3-9-11 Rossa Ryan
3 (7) 11410 LEVEL UP 11 (CD) P Evans 4-9-9 N Callan
4 (8) 32142 FAIR WIND 17 (H,BF,D) Owen Burrows 3-9-8 J Crowley
5 (2) 6012 COVER UP 14 (D) J & T Gosden 3-9-8 W Buick
6 (10) 02313 STONE CIRCLE 40 (CD) M Bell 6-9-8 K Shoemark
7 (4) 05110 THUNDER STAR 27 (CD) Jessica Macey 3-9-7 L Edmunds
8 (6) 01400 EEH BAH GUM 11 (D) I Furtado 8-9-6 Laura Coughlan (5)
9 (1) 2-125 GEMINI STAR 143 (D) Alice Haynes 3-9-6 K O'Neill
10 (3) 3-560 ULTRAMARINE 11 P Evans 4-9-0 D Keenan
11 (11) 55204 LIPSINK 15 (P,D) R Cowell 6-8-13 M Ghiani

7-2 Fair Wind, 4-1 Cover Up, 6-1 Razzam, 7-1 Stone Circle, Gemini Star, 8-1 Vespasian, 10-1 Thunder Star, 12-1 Level Up.

6.15 Handicap (£3,768: 5f) (10)
1 (4) 61-55 ONCE ADAAY 200 (T) Mrs I G-Leveque 3-9-10 G Wood
2 (6) 40004 FRISKY 7 (D) J Butler 4-9-9 F Larson (3)
3 (7) 35530 TALAMANCA 29 (V) R Spencer 3-9-6 N Callan
4 (5) 15502 BERNARD SPIERPOINT 15 (T,V,C,D) Darryll Holland 6-9-5 L Morris
5 (8) 0450 NAUTICAL DREAM 23 Jessica Macey 3-9-5 L Edmunds
6 (9) 06013 SNOW BERRY 35 (P,CD) M Appleby 5-9-0 Rossa Ryan
7 (2) 06442 DARLO PRIDE 19 (B,T) A Carson 3-8-8 W Carson
8 (10) 00246 UNIVERSAL GRACE 10 (T) S C Williams 3-8-7 M Ghiani
9 (3) 00530 ALI JEWELS 32 W Jarvis 3-8-6 K O'Neill
10 (1) 43060 REWILDING 35 (V) R Cowell 3-8-6 H Turner

7-2 Snow Berry, 4-1 Darlo Pride, 9-2 Bernard Spierpoint, 15-2 Talamanca, 8-1 Universal Grace, 10-1 Once Adaay, Frisky, 12-1 others.

Course specialists

Newcastle: Trainers P & O Cole, 6 winners from 17 runners, 35.3%; J Ferguson, 7 from 28, 25%; A Watson, 37 from 152, 24.3%; T Davidson, 9 from 61, 14.8%. **Jockeys** W Carver, 5 winners from 18 rides, 27.8%; Hollie Doyle, 34 from 156, 21.8%; Saffie Osborne, 8 from 39, 20.5%.

Redcar: Trainers W Haggas, 16 from 51, 31.4%; G Boughey, 7 from 23, 30.4%; K P De Foy, 3 from 10, 30%; E Bethell, 8 from 32, 25%. **Jockeys** A Farragher, 3 from 7, 42.9%; R Sexton, 4 from 19, 21.1%; B A Curtis, 23 from 130, 17.7%.

Uttoxeter: Trainers Dr R Newland, 24 from 112, 21.4%; F O'Brien, 38 from 195, 19.5%; P Bowen, 13 from 73, 17.8%; M Keighley, 14 from 79, 17.7%. **Jockeys** J Hogan, 4 from 10, 40%; H Skelton, 34 from 143, 23.8%; Lilly Pinchin, 7 from 34, 20.6%.

Yarmouth: Trainers J & T Gosden, 22 from 86, 25.6%; G Boughey, 13 from 69, 18.8%; W Stone, 11 from 59, 18.6%; Richard Spencer, 11 from 60, 18.3%. **Jockeys** R Coakley, 3 from 11, 27.3%; J Crowley, 11 from 43, 25.6%; James Doyle, 17 from 71, 23.9%.

Blinkered first time: Newcastle 7.30 Raven's Applause. 8.30 Stormy Denise.

Yesterday's racing results

Brighton
Going: soft

1.55 (5f 215yd) **1, Concierge** (Paddy Bradley, 2-1 fav); 2, Hey Mr (11-2); 3, Batchelor Boy (5-2). 4 ran. NR: Mumayaz, Phoenix Glow, The Princes Poet. 4l, 1l. M J Attwater.

2.30 (7f 216yd) **1, Harry The Haggler** (Marco Ghiani, Evens fav); 2, Tea Sea (11-2); 3, Rayena (7-2). 7 ran. 6½l, ¾l. S C Williams.

3.05 (1m 1f 207yd) **1, Send In The Clouds** (Mollie Phillips, 4-1 jt-fav); 2, Decisive Call (10-1); 3, Habanero Star (4-1 jt-fav). 11 ran. NR: Lowick, Mysterious Maestro. 3½l, 2½l. A W Carroll.

3.40 (1m 3f 198yd) **1, Plus Point** (George Wood, 6-5 fav; **Rob Wright's nap**); 2, Robusto (5-4); 3, Still Standing (33-1). 5 ran. NR: On The Right Track, Sword Beach. 4¾l, 1l. Harry Eustace.

4.15 (7f 216yd) **1, Uncle Dick** (Georgia Dobie, Evens fav); 2, Micks Dream (4-1); 3, Darvel (6-1). 6 ran. NR: Local Bay, Perfect Gentleman. Nk, 4½l. Eve Johnson Houghton.

4.45 (6f 210yd) **1, Evasive Power** (Billy Loughnane, 3-1 jt-fav); 2, Heer's Sadie (11-2); 3, Sir Titan (5-1). 7 ran. NR: Ajrad, Bear To Dream, Moondial, Runner Bean, Silver Diva. 1¾l, 1l. R Brisland.

5.20 (5f 60yd) **1, Cuban Grey** (Marco Ghiani, 3-1 jt-fav); 2, Notre Maison (5-1); 3, Areille (3-1 jt-fav). 7 ran. 1¾l, ¾l. M Murphy & M Keady.

Placepot: £19.60. Quadpot: £5.80.

Thirsk
Going: soft

1.50 (1m 4f 8yd) **1, Kells** (William Pyle, 15-2); 2, Visitant (15-2); 3, Foursome (9-1). 14 ran. NR: It's How We Roll. 8½l, ¾l. I Jardine.

2.20 (6f) **1, Salamanca Lad** (O J Orr, 7-2); 2, Mecca's Duchess (13-2); 3, Forever Eighteen (5-2 fav). 7 ran. NR: Dingwall, Uwaittillplaytime. 1l, 1¼l. R A Fahey.

2.55 (6f) **1, Wichahpi** (G Lee, 80-1); 2, Marie's Secret (3-1); 3, Lady Ava (3-1). 8 ran. NR: Justahunch. 1¼l, 1l. B Smart.

3.30 (7f) **1, Zabriskie Point** (W Buick, 5-6 fav); 2, Castle In The Sand (9-1); 3, Candonomore (16-5). 6 ran. ¾l, 1¾l. C Hills.

4.05 (6f) **1, Captain Dandy** (O J Orr, 11-4 fav); 2, Jazzagal (6-1); 3, Captain Corcoran (12-1). 10 ran. NR: Glory Hallelujah, Nodsasgoodasawink. ¾l, 1l. R A Fahey.

4.40 (6f) **1, Mezzo Soprano** (W Buick, 2-5 fav); 2, Midream (11-2); 3, Willow Baby (80-1). 6 ran. 1¼l, 3½l. S & E Crisford.

5.15 (7f 218yd) **1, Victoria Falls** (Connor Planas, 9-4 fav); 2, Measured Moments (3-1); 3, Gracelands Girl (8-1). 11 ran. NR: Waleyfa. ¾l, 3l. H Palmer.

5.50 (7f) **1, Roach Power** (D Allan, 15-2); 2, Ey Up Its Jazz (13-2); 3, Kalganov (18-1). 15 ran. 1¼l, 3½l. T D Easterby.

Placepot: £87.90. Quadpot: £4.60.

Worcester
Going: good

2.05 (2m 110yd ch) **1, Fringill Dike** (C Hammond, 10-11 fav); 2, Glory And Honour (100-30); 3, Grand Roi (9-4). 4 ran. 2¾l, 42l. J O'Keeffe.

2.40 (2m 4f ch) **1, Hang In There** (Joe Anderson, 6-4 fav); 2, La Dominiale (5-1); 3, Francky Du Berlais (11-2). 6 ran. NR: Fix At All. 15l, 11. Miss E C Lavelle.

3.15 (2m Flat) **1, Little Peter** (B S Hughes, 100-30); 2, Newmill Getaway (3-1); 3, Touchwoodexpress (2-1 fav). 8 ran. NR: Tribal Glory. Hd, ¾l. John Berry.

3.50 (2m Flat) **1, Stungbythemaster** (C Brace, 4-1); 2, The Eventmaster (2-1 fav); 3, Bahio Boum (7-2). 8 ran. NR: Harbour Bridge. 2¼l, nk. F O'Brien.

4.25 (2m hdle) **1, Rock House** (H Skelton, 8-13 fav); 2, Corporal Jackjones (7-1); 3, Mr Mackay (4-1). 9 ran. NR: Lone Soldier. 13l, 11l. D Skelton.

5.00 (2m hdle) **1, Gieves** (Kielan Woods, 9-1); 2, Go On Ya Goodthing (100-1); 3, The Geordie Ginge (5-6 fav). 7 ran. NR: Afta Party, Buck Of Maine. 19l, 4l. B Pauling.

5.35 (2m 4f hdle) **1, Hedera Park** (H Cobden, 9-2); 2, Stamina Chope (25-1); 3, Malago Rose (11-2). 11 ran. NR: Betty's Belle. 2½l, 7l. Mrs D A Hamer.

6.10 (2m 7f hdle) **1, Classic Concorde** (C Brace, 7-2 fav); 2, Edison Kent (11-2); 3, Coal Fire (4-1). 8 ran. NR: Glengeever. 2¼l, 1¾l. D Brace.

Placepot: £381.50. Quadpot: £119.90.

Kempton Park
Going: standard/slow

4.52 (7f) **1, Cherry Hill** (Oisin Murphy, 12-1); 2, Diddy Man (9-2); 3, Pinpoint (100-30 jt-fav). 11 ran. Nk, 3¾l. D J S Ffrench Davis.

5.30 (7f) **1, King Of Ithaca** (Rossa Ryan, 11-4); 2, Chalk Mountain (14-1); 3, Port Erin (5-2 fav). 11 ran. NR: Lilkian. Nk, 1l. J Tate.

6.00 (6f) **1, Electric Storm** (Rossa Ryan, 5-2); 2, Silvretta (100-30); 3, Vultar (9-4 fav). 9 ran. NR: Mr Mustache. 1l, ¾l. J Tate.

6.30 (1m 3f 219yd) **1, Camarrate** (Daniel Muscutt, 10-1); 2, Marzocco (15-8); 3, Atlantis Blue (100-30). 8 ran. ¾l, 4¾l. Grant Tuer.

7.00 (7f 218yd) **1, Hedonista** (Saffie Osborne, 7-2); 2, Mountain Road (5-2 fav); 3, Study The Stars (4-1). 8 ran. 1¼l, 2½l. E Walker.

7.30 (1m) **1, Kaaranah** (Dylan Hogan, 17-2); 2, King Cabo (13-8 fav); 3, Almarin (17-2). 11 ran. NR: Ocean Heights. 1¾l, 6l. J Butler.

8.00 (1m) **1, Lady Of Arabia** (Hector Crouch, 9-2); 2, Francesi (14-1); 3, Bobby's Blessing (25-1). 12 ran. ¾l, 4¾l. Eve Johnson Houghton.

8.30 (1m 2f 219yd) **1, Geelong** (T Marquan, 4-1 fav); 2, Smart Charger (13-2); 3, Delvey (20-1). 12 ran. NR: Pysanka, Frankfreya. 6½l, hd. P&O Cole.

Jackpot: Not won. Pool of £23,091.95 carried forward to Newcastle today.

Placepot: £12.60. Quadpot: £4.90.

Root refuses rest in battle to find form

Elizabeth Ammon

Joe Root has been added to the England squad at his own request for the first one-day international against Ireland in an attempt to find form before the World Cup.

The Yorkshire batsman, 32, was not part of the largely second-string squad for the three-match series but scores of 6, 0, 4 and 29 against New Zealand led to him asking the England management if he could play at Headingley on Wednesday.

The 15-man World Cup squad flies to India on September 27, the day after the Ireland series finishes, so Root will play in only the first match and have a short break afterwards.

Harry Brook, who was named in the final World Cup squad ahead of Jason Roy, was due to play against Ireland but has now been withdrawn from the series to rest before the two-month tournament that starts on October 5. None of the other squad members to play against Ireland is heading to India.

"It's like for a lot of people, getting that rhythm of 50-over cricket [is important]," Luke Wright, the England selector, said. "We don't play much in this country and someone like Joe hasn't played much of it recently. He just wanted a bit more time.

"I think it's great for someone to still have that desire to keep wanting to do more and more. It shows what makes him a world-class player: that when he doesn't feel quite right that he still wants to tinker and do more. As much as we thought he probably needed a break, he just wanted another go."

Jofra Archer, meanwhile, is not in the main 15-member squad for the World Cup as he is still recovering from an elbow stress fracture. Wright has said that Archer is the only confirmed travelling reserve for the England squad. Being around the team set-up will be important for Archer's rehabilitation process.

On being asked about Archer's fitness and the plans surrounding his selection as a travelling reserve, Wright said: "Yeah, absolutely, Jof will probably be the one, the only one, that actually travels with the team. A big part is this rehab and being able to bowl and have the physios around him."

Each of the ten World Cup teams can name up to three travelling reserves and Roy, despite being dropped from the original squad because of concerns about his issue with back spasms and poor form, has been given the chance to be a reserve. However, the 33-year-old has asked for a few days to think about it and was distraught to have been left out.

"Absolutely [Roy is considered] as a reserve batter at the top of the order and we've made it very clear we see him as the man to do that and I don't think there's any reason why we wouldn't," Wright said. "We've spoken to him about that. Obviously, he's got time to reflect now over the next few days. It's not an easy pill for him to swallow but it's something we'll be picking up with him over the next few days."

England have not yet named the two reserves that could join Archer. They have until September 28 to do so. Should Roy turn them down, England may take only Archer in the first instance. Others can be added at any point in the tournament, which in England's case could be a batsman and a bowler. England's squad has six seam bowlers but Wright said they will all be needed given the length and intensity of the tournament.

"We'd have loved a couple more spots to get another batter and a spare spinner in but we know with the make-up of our side, with a lot of travel and lot of games in a short space of time and with some of the injury risks our bowlers have had, we need that cover," Wright said.

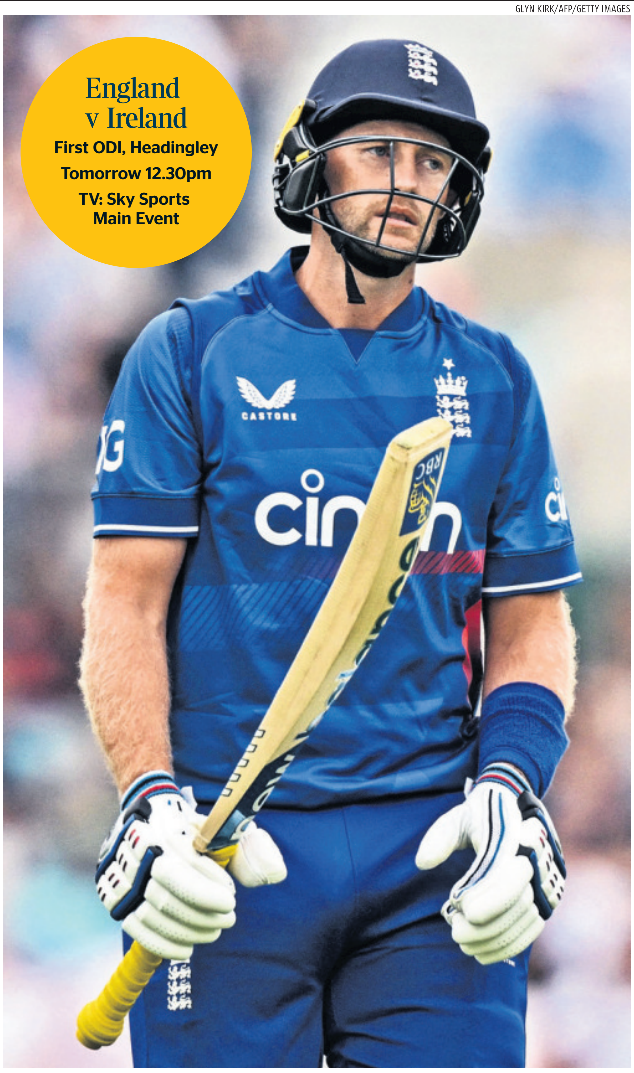
"It gives us a chance to rotate the bowlers. The chance of having all those bowlers fit in the original XI playing all the games is slim."

Then and now

Joe Root in ODIs before and after the 2019 World Cup final

	Up to 2019	Since 2019
Matches per year	20.43	4.75
Half-centuries per innings	0.36	0.19
Batting average	51.36	27.85

Source: Cricinfo





England v Ireland
First ODI, Headingley
Tomorrow 12.30pm
TV: Sky Sports Main Event

GLYN KIRK/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Root asked for extra game time to help "get into the rhythm of 50-over cricket" while Archer, below, will travel to the World Cup with the squad as a reserve

Trio dropped for on-field behaviour

CONTINUED FROM BACK

Tom Haines was reprimanded during their fixture against Yorkshire in April. Both the opening batsman, Haines, and the spinner, Jack Carson, were reported for their behaviour during the recent match against Leicestershire. Haines, 24, was charged with a level one offence relating to abusive or offensive language and Carson, 22, received an individual penalty for a more serious level two offence of "making inappropriate and deliberate physical contact with another player" — he appeared to trip up the Leicestershire batsman, Ben Cox, as he looked to take a run.

The umpires had to stop play several times to speak to the Sussex players during the match.

Sussex have dropped both players from their squad to play Derbyshire today and Ari Karvelas, the seam bowler, has also been stood down, with an investigation in place against the 29-year-old South African — although he has not been officially cited by the ECB.

"Following the umpires and match referees's decision to charge both players with on-field offences, we needed to take a stance and show them we will not condone such behaviours," Paul Farbrace, Sussex's head coach, said. "Ultimately they have cost us the availability of Cheteshwar and we have been deducted 12 points.

"We have also decided it is not appropriate for Ari Karvelas to be made available for selection until the investigation that is in place has been concluded.

"It is a great shame that these incidents have tarnished what was a fantastic game against Leicestershire and all the hard work that has gone into the season. I am disappointed for our members and supporters and can assure them we will be working hard to make sure we are not in this position again."

The points deduction means Sussex have dropped from third to fifth in Division Two and now are all but out of the race to secure promotion.

Haines and Carson have both publicly apologised for their actions. "In the heat of the battle against Leicestershire, my desperation to compete and win resulted in me crossing the line in what is deemed acceptable within the spirit of cricket," Carson said.

Haines said: "I'd like to apologise to all Sussex supporters for overstepping the mark."

Donald may bench Europe's star names because of 'brutal' course

Golf
Rick Broadbent

Luke Donald, the European Ryder Cup captain, may bench some of his star names while caddies will have the option of using lightweight bags in an effort to counter the rigours of the Marco Simone course.

Donald said the testing topography of the venue on the outskirts of Rome would be a factor in his four-balls and foursomes pairings on Friday and Saturday next week. The course is hilly and has been dubbed "brutal" by his United States counterpart, Zach Johnson. The European player Viktor Hovland has said he is "not a big fan" of the numerous blind shots, while the leading coach Pete Cowen has described the course as "horrendous".

Donald said he had held talks with his players about the physical burden of the rolling hills and warned that some may end up sitting out sessions against their will. "We've discussed it with a few players who you'd think would play [all] five [matches]," he said. "Adrenaline is a big thing in the Ryder Cup, so if you asked them to play they would want to, but you've got to think about Sunday and the singles.

"You want some freshness and it's going to be a tiring course and warm. It's a possibility that some guys who are used to playing five [matches] might not play five. They understand the rationale behind it."

At the last Ryder Cup, in 2021, when the US delivered a demoralising 19-9 drubbing, Hovland and Jon Rahm were the only Europeans to play in every match. Neither won their Sunday singles. In 2018, when Europe won in Paris, Rory McIlroy, Tommy Fleetwood and Francesco Molinari played five times, with only Molinari winning on Sunday.

Two years ago McIlroy sat out Saturday's foursomes after a torrid Friday. This time McIlroy, Rahm and Hovland, who are No 2, No 3 and No 4 in the world respectively, would have expected to be ever-present.

The concern about the punishing nature of the course has also extended to the caddies, with stand-ins available as Donald literally seeks to lighten the load. "We have enough people there to fill in if someone can't do 36 holes," he said. "That has all been thought about.

"The players have the option to do carry bags [lighter bags]. A lot of caddies don't like to because they think it's a bit strange and it's something they're not used to. We'll have a lot of buggies with space to store their stuff, to try to lighten the bags as much as possible."

Europe's team enjoyed a good build-up last week, visiting Rome on Monday and then all playing in the BMW PGA Championship at Wentworth. The US also went on a fact-finding visit to Italy, although Jordan Spieth, Xander Schauffele and Patrick Cantlay stayed at home. Most of their team will not have played for a month by the time play gets under way, though Justin Thomas, a contentious pick, gave a morale-boosting display at the Fortinet Championship at the weekend, finishing fifth. His Ryder Cup team-mate Max Homa was seventh, with Sahith Theegala, who is not Rome-bound, getting his first PGA Tour win.



Donald says his leading players are unlikely to play all five matches

Donald believes that the chance to group players together at Wentworth has given him an advantage. "There were six in the top six at one point with another few nearby. They come in with a lot of good form so I'm very happy. I'm ready for it and my team is ready."

Wentworth also gave an indicator of the pairings. The successful Rahm-Sergio García combination has been severed by the latter's DP World Tour resignation and refusal to pay fines by the stated deadline for playing conflicting events on the LIV Golf circuit. Rahm is supportive of García and said he would "absolutely rely on him" if the Spaniard was eligible to be a vice-captain in the future. "He is the best player Europe ever had," he said at Wentworth.

Donald has steered clear of all the LIV Golf intrigue, and aided by the vice-captain Edoardo Molinari's stats, has a good idea of who will play in the opening session. At Wentworth, Rahm played two rounds with Tyrrell Hatton and Nicolai Hojgaard, while McIlroy played with Hovland and Ludvig Aberg. "I've told them all what I'm thinking, but it can change," Donald said. "I want to get their thoughts on it. We have three practice rounds [in Rome] so you can glean stuff from that."

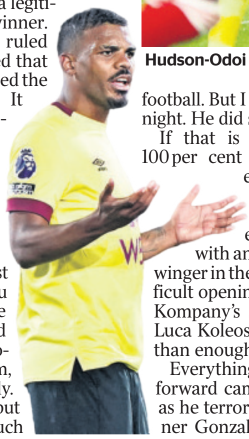
Hudson-Odoi produces timely touch of class

Nottingham Forest	*Hudson-Odoi 61*	**1**
Burnley	*Amdouni 41*	**1**

Charlotte Duncker

MARC ATKINS/GETTY IMAGES





Hudson-Odoi curls home Forest's equaliser; left, Burnley's Foster makes his feelings known after being sent off for an elbow

Of all the money Nottingham Forest have spent in the past two transfer windows, the £3million they parted with for Callum Hudson-Odoi could be their most savvy move.

The winger arrived on deadline day and showed that despite his exile at Chelsea he still has Premier League quality, as his moment of magic salvaged a draw for Forest on his full debut for the club at the City Ground.

His magnificent second-half curling effort from outside the penalty area cancelled out Zeki Amdouni's opener on an evening when Burnley were left feeling hard done by after being denied what they thought was a legitimate 90th-minute winner. Lyle Foster's finish was ruled out after it was adjudged that Sander Berge had handled the ball in the build-up. It meant that Hudson-Odoi was the hero for Forest after Burnley's back line had frustrated them in the first half.

"I know he has quality. I know he can have moments of brilliance," Steve Cooper, the Forest head coach, said. "You need that at times in the Premier League. I'm glad we got one of those tonight. It's great for him, great for us, obviously. He's trained really well, but he hasn't played much football. But I backed him to do well tonight. He did some really good things."

If that is Hudson-Odoi short of 100per cent then Forest should be excited to see what more is to come from the 22-year-old. However, Forest aren't the only ones with an exciting game-changing winger in their ranks. It has been a difficult opening few games for Vincent Kompany's side but the 19-year-old Luca Koleosho has given them more than enough reason for optimism.

Everything Burnley did well going forward came through the teenager as he terrorised the World Cup winner Gonzalo Montiel each time he pushed forward, most notably in creating Burnley's opener by beating Forest's right back, getting past Joe Worrall and pulling the ball back to the edge of the area for the waiting Amdouni to fire past Matt Turner.

"He's fearless," Kompany, the Burnley manager, said. "I don't know how long he's going to sustain this form. But as long as he has the confidence and momentum, it can give you a lot. If we can get him to run smarter, that will be another weapon for the team."

Montiel had been terrorised so much that he was replaced by Nuno Tavares in the 53rd minute.

Forest were lively throughout but lacked cutting edge. It took the moment of brilliance from Hudson-Odoi to draw them level, taking a touch before curling his effort into the top corner.

A lengthy VAR check for offside and then handball made for a nervy few minutes for the home crowd and that would not be the last intervention of the evening. With both sides pushing for a winner, Scott McKenna was caught out by a long ball over the top to Berge, who pulled it back for Foster to find the net. But VAR adjudged that Berge had handled the ball in the build-up and Burnley must wait for that elusive first league victory of the campaign. At least, though, in their fourth game, they have a point on the board.

"I have a decent business brain and a decent coaching brain but when it comes to the laws, I switch off," Kompany said. "Handball this way, handball that way, they can't explain it every time. I've made the decision to trust that they know what they are doing and they have the right intentions."

Foster was then on the receiving end of another VAR check, this time for an elbow into the chest of Ryan Yates, for which he was shown a straight red card.

While both managers wanted more for their sides, they can be satisfied with a point and the knowledge that in Hudson-Odoi and Koleosho they have two game-changing players at their disposal.

How they stand

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Manchester City	5	5	0	0	14	3	11	15
Tottenham	5	4	1	0	13	5	8	13
Liverpool	5	4	1	0	12	4	8	13
Arsenal	5	4	1	0	9	4	5	13
Brighton	5	4	0	1	15	7	8	12
West Ham	5	3	1	1	10	7	3	10
Aston Villa	5	3	0	2	11	10	1	9
Nottm Forest	5	2	1	2	7	7	0	7
Crystal Palace	5	2	1	2	6	7	-1	7
Fulham	5	2	1	2	5	10	-5	7
Brentford	5	1	3	1	8	6	2	6
Newcastle	5	2	0	3	8	7	1	6
Manchester Utd	5	2	0	3	6	10	-4	6
Chelsea	5	1	2	2	5	5	0	5
Bournemouth	5	0	3	2	4	8	-4	3
Wolverhampton	5	1	0	4	5	11	-6	3
Sheffield Utd	5	0	1	4	5	9	-4	1
Everton	5	0	1	4	2	9	-7	1
Burnley	4	0	1	3	4	12	-8	1
Luton	4	0	0	4	2	10	-8	0

Nottingham Forest (4-2-3-1): M Turner 6 — G Montiel 4 (N Tavares 53min, 6), J Worrall 6, S McKenna 6, O Aina 6 — I Sangaré 6, O Mangala 6 (R Yates 71) — A Elanga 6, M Gibbs-White 7, C Hudson-Odoi 8 (D Origi 71) — T Awoniyi 6 (C Wood 88). **Booked** Mangala, Montiel.
Burnley (4-4-2): J Trafford 6 — A Al-Dakhil 6, J Beyer 6 (H Delcroix 87), C Taylor 6, C Roberts 6 — J-B Gudmundsson 6 (A Zaroury 63, 6), J Cullen 6, J Brownhill 5, L Koleosho 8 (M Tresor 76) — Z Amdouni 7 (S Berge 63, 6), L Foster 6. **Booked** Trafford, Cullen, Roberts. **Sent off** Foster.
Referee R Jones. **Attendance** 28,958.

Hermoso left out of latest Spain squad

Molly Hudson

Jenni Hermoso, the player kissed on the lips by Luis Rubiales after winning the Women's World Cup, has not been included in Spain's first squad since the tournament — with the new coach saying it is "the best way to protect her".

However, 21 players who have gone on strike in protest at the RFEF, the Spanish football federation, have been called up.

Hermoso, the 33-year-old forward, was kissed by Rubiales, who was the president of the federation at the time, during the medal presentation after Spain's 1-0 victory over England in Sydney. The incident, which Hermoso said she did not consent to, brought global condemnation for Rubiales, who was forced to resign, while his ally Jorge Vilda, the team's head coach, was sacked and replaced by his assistant Montse Tomé.

It is not clear whether Hermoso was consulted about her omission from the squad but Tomé, the first woman to be appointed to the role, said: "We stand with Jenni. We believe that the best way to protect her is like this, but we are counting on Jenni."



Tomé was unveiled as the new head coach by the federation yesterday

A Spanish court issued a restraining order on Rubiales on Friday, prohibiting him from coming within 500 metres of Hermoso, who plays her club football in Mexico with Pachuca.

Before the World Cup, several of the Spanish players took part in a strike against the federation, saying the environment within the national team was affecting their mental health. Many of them put aside those issues during the tournament, but Patri Guijarro and Mapi León were among those who did not make themselves available.

On Friday 39 players — including 21 of the squad Tomé has selected — said their strike would continue until more widespread change occurred within the federation. This stance led to a delay in the squad announcement until yesterday, when Guijarro and León were among those called up.

Several of the Spain players, including Alexia Putellas, Leon, and Guijarro issued a joint statement, in which they said: "After what has happened today, we will study the possible legal consequences to which the RFEF exposed us to by putting us in a squad which we had asked not to be called for reasons already explained publicly." If players do not report for duty before their Nations League fixture with Sweden on Friday, they could face a fine or even a suspension of their playing licence.

ITV lands rights for England as hosts face Euro 2028 qualifiers

CONTINUED FROM BACK

tournament on October 10, and it is almost certain to go to the UK and Ireland as the original Euro 2028 rivals Turkey are now joining forces with Italy to co-host Euro 2032.

It may also be better from commercial and playing perspectives for host nations to play competitive qualifiers rather than friendlies in the build-up to the tournament. Germany, the Euro 2024 hosts, have had mixed results in their friendlies and sacked their head coach, Hansi Flick, after they lost 4-1 to Japan this month. Playing friendlies rather than competitive qualifiers also negatively affects a team's Fifa world ranking.

Yesterday, ITV announced a TV deal with Uefa for England's matches up until June 2028, including all 2026 World Cup and Euro 2028 qualifiers — Uefa has sold the rights to England's matches since 2011 as part of a collective sales agreement. ITV declined to say what the deal involved for Euro 2028 qualifiers but it is understood the possibilities around England being the host nation are part of the arrangement.

Channel 4's deal for England's matches runs out next year and the ITV deal will keep the games on terrestrial TV. ITV and BBC have the joint rights to the European Championships in 2024 and 2028, and the 2026 World Cup finals.

A statement from ITV read: "The first qualifying campaign will be England's bid to reach the 2026 Fifa World Cup finals in North America, followed by the European qualifiers to Uefa Euro 2028."

The deal includes all of England's Nations League and friendly games — at least 40 matches, approximately ten per season. ITV had previously held the rights for England's European qualifiers from 2018 to 2022.

Results

Football

Premier League

Nottm Forest (0) **1** **Burnley** (1) **1**
Hudson-Odoi 61 Amdouni 41
28,958
Sent off: L Foster (Burnley) 90+4

Spanish La Liga Granada 2 Girona 4.

Top of the table	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Real Madrid	5	5	0	0	10	3	7	15
Barcelona	5	4	1	0	13	4	9	13
Girona	5	4	1	0	11	4	7	13
Athletic Bilbao	5	3	1	1	9	4	5	10
Valencia	5	3	0	2	7	4	3	9
Rayo Vallecano	5	3	0	2	6	8	-2	9

Italian Serie A Salernitana 0 Torino 3; Verona 0 Bologna 0.

Top of the table	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Inter Milan	4	4	0	0	13	1	12	12
Juventus	4	3	1	0	9	2	7	10
AC Milan	4	3	0	1	9	7	2	9
Lecce	4	2	2	0	7	4	3	8
Napoli	4	2	1	1	8	5	3	7
Frosinone	4	2	1	1	7	6	1	7

American football

NFL

Arizona 28 New York Giants 31; Dallas 30 New York Jets 10; Denver 33 Washington 35; Los Angeles Rams 23 San Francisco 30; New England 17 Miami 24.

Golf

US PGA Tour Fortinet Championship

Napa, California: Leading final scores (United States unless stated): **267** S Theegala 68, 64, 67, 68. **269** Kim Seong-hyeon (S Kor) 65, 67, 69, 68. **271** C Davis (Aus) 68, 68, 65, 70. **272** E Cole 68, 66, 68, 70. **273** J Thomas 69, 67, 65, 72. **274** B Todd 69, 71, 68, 66. **275** M Homa 70, 66, 70, 69; M Kuchar 70, 67, 65, 73; T Merritt 74, 67, 69, 65; C Tarren (Eng) 68, 69, 67, 71.

Rugby league

Betfred Championship York 15 Batley 14.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
F'therstone (Q)	26	24	0	2	1,017	285	48
Toulouse (Q)	26	18	0	8	806	369	36
Sheffield	26	16	0	10	764	543	32
Bradford	26	15	1	10	660	556	31
L Broncos	26	15	0	11	576	536	30
Halifax	26	14	1	11	678	550	29
York	26	14	0	12	526	539	28
Batley	26	14	0	12	474	501	28
Widnes	26	13	0	13	609	590	26
Barrow	26	8	1	17	453	641	17
Whitehaven	26	8	0	18	465	783	16
Keighley	26	8	0	18	490	813	16
Swinton	26	8	0	18	404	727	16
Newcastle (R)	26	5	1	20	397	886	11

Tennis

WTA Guadalajara Open AKRON

Zapopan: First round Karolina Pliskova (Cz) bt E Shibahara (Japan) 7-5, 6-2; L Fernandez (Can) bt A Muhammad (US) 6-1, 6-3; S Stephens (US) bt A Li (US) 7-5, 6-4; T Townsend (US) bt A Tomljanovic (Aus) 7-6 (7-3), 6-4; E Bouchard (Can) bt R Zarazua (Mex) 6-1, 7-6 (7-4); D Yastremska (Ukr) bt A Sánchez (Mex) 7-6 (7-1), 6-4; A Kalinina (Ukr) bt G Min (US) 6-2, 6-0; M Frech (Pol) bt C Osorio (Col) 6-1, 6-2; S Hunter (Aus) bt I Shymanovich 6-3, 6-4; V Azarenka (Bela) bt R Montgomery (US) 6-1, 6-1; C Giorgi (It) bt M Sherif (Egy) 7-5, 6-3; C Dolehide (US) bt P Stearns (US) 6-7 (1-7), 7-6 (7-5), 7-6 (7-2); M Kostyuk (Ukr) bt S Fung (Can) 6-3, 2-6, 6-0. **Second round** M Trevisan (It) bt J Paolini (It) 7-5, 6-2.

WTA Guangzhou Open

First round D Shnaider bt C Liu (US) 6-1, 6-3; C Tauson (Den) bt L Fruhvirtova (Cz) 6-2, 7-6 (8-6); R Masarova (Sp) bt K Baindl (Ukr) 7-5, 6-2; G Minnen (Bel) bt D Parry (Fr) 6-2, 6-2; H Dart (GB) bt J Niemeier (Ger) 6-3, 6-2; M Linette (Pol) bt J Burrage (GB) 6-7 (3-7), 6-0, 6-2.

Fixtures

Football

Kick-off 7.45 unless stated

Champions League: Group E (8.0): Feyenoord v Celtic; Lazio v Atletico Madrid. **Group F** AC Milan v Newcastle (5.45); PSG v Borussia Dortmund (8.0). **Group G** Man City v Red Star Belgrade (8.0); Young Boys v RB Leipzig (5.45). **Group H** (8.0): Barcelona v Antwerp; Shakhtar Donetsk v Porto.

Sky Bet Championship Bristol City v Plymouth; Cardiff v Coventry; Preston v Birmingham; QPR v Swansea; Sheff Wed v Middlesbrough (8.0); Southampton v Ipswich. **League One** Barnsley v Portsmouth; Peterborough v Cheltenham; Port Vale v Burton.

Papa John's EFL Trophy (7.0 unless stated): Morecambe v Liverpool U21; Wigan v Leicester U21; Derby v Lincoln; Doncaster v Everton U21; Shrewsbury v Brighton U21; Sutton Utd v Aston Villa U21 (7.45); Wycombe v Crystal Palace U21; Colchester v Tottenham U21 (7.30); Leyton Orient v Fulham U21; Oxford Utd v MK Dons; Exeter v Reading; Bristol Rovers v West Ham U21 (7.45).

Vanarama National League Altrincham v Hartlepool; Barnet v Aldershot; Boreham Wood v Rochdale; Chesterfield v Halifax; Dagenham & Redbridge v Bromley; Dorking Wanderers v Wealdstone; Eastleigh v Oxford City; Gateshead v Kidderminster; Oldham v York; Solihull Moors v AFC Fylde; Southend v Maidenhead; Woking v Ebbsfleet.

Cricket

LV= County Championship: First day of four (10.30): **Division One: Chelmsford** Essex v Hampshire. **Emirates Old Trafford** Lancashire v Nottinghamshire. **Lord's** Middlesex v Warwickshire. **Taunton** Somerset v Kent. **Kia Oval** Surrey v Northamptonshire. **Division Two: Derby** Derbyshire v Sussex. **Leicester** Leicestershire v Yorkshire. **Worcester** Worcestershire v Durham.

Badge of honour is just start of long Newcastle journey

Martin Hardy Milan

In the bars of Milan and in the cafés by the canals of the Navigli district, the black-and-white shirts of the Newcastle United fans singing in the rain had a new look to go with the wet look. On the sleeves of those travelling from Tyneside, through what was at times a torrential storm, were the badges of the Champions League. In the summer the club shop ran out of these shirts.

For more than two decades, memories of Faustino Asprilla's hat-trick against Barcelona and a thrilling night at Feyenoord, when Newcastle became the first side to qualify from the group stage after losing their first three games, have slipped further into memory. They were pages from the past.

The new Newcastle United journey begins tonight, in the San Siro in Milan, but this was not a good start. Newcastle were late for their first Champions League press conference in more than 20 years because the storm in Milan meant they took off from Newcastle yesterday afternoon two hours later than planned. The club are in line for a Uefa warning after their late arrival.

"We were sat on the runway for some time," Eddie Howe, the head coach, revealed. "I believe it was a weather problem. It can happen. It has been an early start and a slightly later arrival than we would have liked for our players."

Newcastle had asked for dispensation not to train at the San Siro before the game. "The thought of not coming earlier in the day was so we could do our tactical work behind closed doors," Howe added. "I don't think it impacted the flight schedule."

When thousands of those same fans gathered outside St James' Park on another Tuesday night, almost two years ago, after the eventual takeover of their club by Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF), it was for a game like this. That it is at the same stadium as the last away game the club played in the group stage of the Champions League, in March 2003, speaks of the strange circularity of football, but also points to the end of a decline.

There were 12,000 from the northeast of England back then, they faced Inter and honest pros like Andy Griffin and Andy O'Brien were part of the starting XI. When Alan Shearer's two goals could only guarantee a draw that effectively ended Newcastle's hopes in that season's competition, Sir Bobby Robson, then the club's manager, called the referee, Lucílio Batista, "bloody awful".

It was Newcastle's second season in the group stage of the Champions League, and also the last. There have been only 18 group games and six qualifying games in Newcastle's history, the last a penalty shoot-out defeat by Partizan Belgrade in front of a crowd of only 37,293 at St James' Park. Something changed that night. Decline started and Mike Ashley, who took over the club in 2007, picked up that particular baton with devastating effect.

Under Ashley there was a single Europa League campaign, in 2013, which ended in a quarter-final defeat by Benfica. Aspiration changed. Champions League? You were having a laugh.

STU FORSTER/GETTY IMAGES



Asprilla heads home to complete his hat-trick against Barcelona and give Newcastle a 3-2 victory over the Catalans at St James' Park in September 1997

AC Milan v Newcastle Utd

Champions League
Kick-off 5.45pm, San Siro
TV TNT Sports 1; **Radio** talkSPORT
Referee J M Sánchez (Spain)

AC Milan (probable; 4-3-3)



Newcastle Utd (probable; 4-3-3)

English coaches in Europe

Champions League campaigns (or part-campaigns) for English managers

3 Sir Bobby Robson (Porto 1993-94, PSV Eindhoven 1998-99, Newcastle 2002-03)
3 Frank Lampard (Chelsea 2019-20, 2020-21, 2022-23*)
1 Ray Harford (Blackburn 1995-96)
1 Harry Redknapp (Tottenham 2010-11)
1 Gary Neville (Valencia 2015-16)
1 Craig Shakespeare (Leicester 2016-17)
1 Michael Carrick (Man Utd 2021-22*)
1 Graham Potter (Chelsea 2022-23)
1 Scott Parker (Bruges, 2022-23)
1 Eddie Howe (Newcastle, 2023-24)
*Caretaker

Once more there is a need for perspective. The recent Amazon documentary, *We are Newcastle United*, was filled with fans declaring the club was "back where it belongs" when a fourth-placed finish in the Premier League last season was confirmed. They are not. Real Madrid (who have appeared in 476 games in Europe's elite competition) belong in the Champions League. Newcastle, with the wealth of PIF, can simply hope to stay there and follow the path of Manchester City. That particular golden road is a long one.

They are still a rookie club and in Howe they have a rookie coach following the paths of Robson and Kenny Dalglish, the manager in 1997 when Newcastle beat a Barcelona of Rivaldo and Luis Figo, led by Louis van Gaal, 3-2 in a thrilling Champions League night.

AC Milan are no longer such a draw, beaten 5-1 by their rivals, Inter, on Saturday, and in need of a boost to such an extent that their former player Zlatan Ibrahimovic turned up at their training ground to offer motivation. "It was important as he spoke individually to the players," Stefano Pioli, the Milan manager, said.

Howe called it an "amazing moment" when Newcastle achieved Champions League qualification in his first full season. He said they had "shot ahead of schedule", but as Robson would have attested after his sacking in 2004, you cannot turn a football club back.

To that end it still feels remarkable that when the Champions League music plays tonight for the tea-time kick-off, and Howe steps out at one of Europe's most famous grounds, it will be the first time he has attended a game in the competition, never mind managed a side in it.

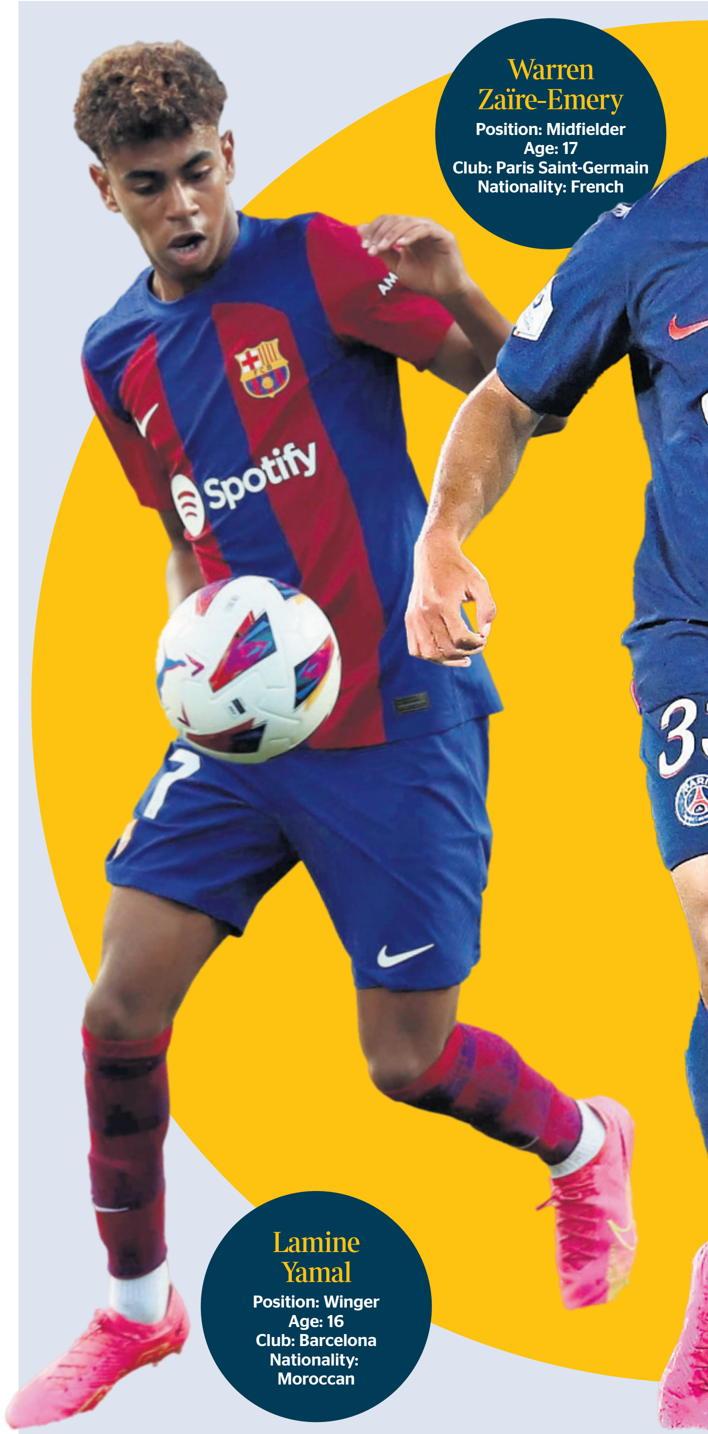
On top of that has been a difficult start to the season. Newcastle's victory against Brentford on Saturday ended a run of three successive games against Manchester City, Liverpool and Brighton & Hove Albion without a win.

"Let me tell you, I haven't been cool the past three or four weeks because this is my life, this is everything, so when things are not quite going to plan, I am very emotional," Howe said.

"Now it [the Milan game] is here, it will be a proud moment for me and everyone connected with Newcastle to be back in the Champions League after a long time away."

Tonight will be emotional then, for Howe, his players and the 4,000 fans who have travelled to Milan, but it should not be seen as a return to what Newcastle were, a club who fleetingly ate at the top table.

This is about a rebirth and a rebranding, about being visible within Europe's elite season after season, about boosting annual revenue by at least £50 million, and, to those in black and white in Milan, about a badge on a sleeve.



One Champions League

Paul Joyce
Northern Football Correspondent

Pep Guardiola was at pains to point out that Manchester City's long-awaited Champions League success on that giddy evening in Istanbul in June was actually "nothing special" in the context of the competition's history.

That City's defence of the trophy won in the final against Inter Milan should begin against Red Star Belgrade at the Etihad tonight serves as the perfect illustration of his point.

The Serbian champions, after all, also boast a single success in Europe's premier club competition, beating Chris Waddle's Marseille on penalties in the final in Bari in 1991, and so can still consider themselves equals.

In total, ten teams have triumphed once and Guardiola is already eyeing joining the list of 13 sides who can claim to be multiple winners. Real Madrid (14), AC Milan (seven) and Liverpool and Bayern Munich (six each) are, of course, far in the distance.

Yet for a City team who have followed last season's Treble success with a perfect start to the Premier League season, the challenge is to join — and then overhaul — Nottingham Forest, Porto, Juventus, Chelsea and Benfica, all of whom have been crowned European champions twice. Being one-hit wonders will not suffice.

"For our club to win the Champions League is something incredible," Guardiola said, adding that he has not watched a replay of the final, which was settled by Rodri's goal.

"How many teams have won the Champions League once? A lot. But a lot have won two, three, four, five. In perspective, we did not do anything special. Just one. Of course, we didn't



Xavi Simons
Position: Attacking midfielder/winger
Age: 20
Club: RB Leipzig (on loan from PSG)
Nationality: Dutch

Yamal, 16, to shine…our predictions

WHO ARE THE FAVOURITES TO WIN?

Henry Winter Manchester City. Repeating is difficult but City have the best manager, squad and mindset.

Paul Joyce City are well placed to defend the trophy they won in Istanbul last June. Pep Guardiola's squad looks by far the strongest.

James Gheerbrant City. The best team, with the best coach, liberated by having won it last year, strengthened by the addition of Josko Gvardiol and Jérémy Doku.

Alyson Rudd Real Madrid. There is something compelling about the club and the way Carlo Ancelotti calmly navigates European competitions, and don't we all want Jude Bellingham to shine?

Paul Hirst City. They have the best squad in Europe and they've now got over the mental hurdle of winning it for the first time.

Tom Allnutt Bayern Munich aren't so different from the team that won it three years ago and now they have Harry Kane, who will be more motivated than ever.

Martin Hardy Real, though watch out for City and Bayern. Real have won only one of the past five Champions Leagues — for them, a lean spell. They will expect to win it.

WHICH PLAYER ARE YOU EXCITED TO SEE?

HW Bellingham for Real Madrid. So mature in his decision-making for one so young.

PJ Barcelona's 16-year-old Lamine Yamal. The winger is the club's youngest-ever player and also Spain's youngest international.

JG Warren Zaïre-Emery. The fresh prince of the French capital, a 17-year-old jewel of the PSG academy who has established himself as a starter in central midfield. Games against AC Milan, Borussia Dortmund and Newcastle United represent a tough baptism, but could rubber-stamp his immense promise.

AR Yamal. The Barcelona winger is the youngest player to score for the Spain national team and is already valued at €25 million. That could rise sharply over the coming months.

PH Xavi Simons of RB Leipzig. Starred for PSV Eindhoven last year and has three goals in four games for Leipzig this year.

is not special, says Pep

have it and we're proud. It's most difficult to win the first one. It's something incredible, but it's just once.

"People say we won it and it's done. It's not done. If I wanted to live for the memories I wouldn't be here. I'd be at home or on a beach.

"Just Madrid, or the [Arrigo] Sacchi period with Milan, they did it again in a row. I was proud at Barcelona to win two in four years but we didn't win it in a row. Let's try. If we aren't able to win it, like the previous six seasons, then qualify for next year and try again."

On Sunday, City had their team photograph taken, with the spoils from their remarkable year — the Uefa Super Cup added to the Premier League, FA Cup and Champions League — at the front of the picture.

For Kyle Walker, another picture is seared on his psyche. It was a diagram drawn by Guardiola at the start of the season which depicted City "at the bottom of the mountain" and needing to push on once more.

"To go again and again is what separates good teams from great teams," the England right back said.

Walker, 33, appears ready to lead the charge, having been officially named as one of the club's five captains alongside Kevin De Bruyne, Rúben Dias, Rodri and Bernardo Silva. He will also be the one wearing the armband while De Bruyne continues his rehabilitation from a serious hamstring injury.

Mateo Kovacic, a four-times Champions League winner, John Stones and Jack Grealish are still missing, but Guardiola expects City to start the road to Wembley on the front foot. It is a venue that already holds special memories for him, as a player and coach with Barcelona in 1992 and 2011, yet there is always room for more.

'Why am I so good in the air? It's my volleyball genes'

PSV's Luuk de Jong returns to England with point to prove after his struggles at Newcastle, writes **Alyson Rudd**

Arsenal's opponents in their opening Champions League match will be led out by Luuk de Jong, the PSV Eindhoven striker, who is perhaps best known on these shores for having played for Newcastle United and Barcelona and for scoring one of the most elegant headers ever seen in a European final.

Perhaps it is best to get the episode relating to Newcastle, whom he joined in January 2014, out of the way, because it represents a low point in his career. "What was good was the city, playing in the Premier League, the atmosphere in such a beautiful stadium," the 33-year-old says. "It was something I dreamt about since I was a little boy. But the negative part, the less fun part, was in the first half of the season they did quite well, and I came in the winter on loan; in the second half of the year we didn't perform well, and eventually I had to play as a midfielder, which wasn't really my strength.

"It was a tough time for me. In the end, people see me as a striker and I didn't score any goals there, so that's what people remember. I think it was the wrong place at the wrong time. It was a beautiful club, of course, but I was there at the wrong time."

I wonder if he is familiar with the phrase "sliding doors" — which he isn't — but then again, De Jong is all too aware that footballers experience a host of what-ifs.

"Every moment you get you have to grab it and if you don't show [your ability] then people will criticise," he says. "I understand it wasn't my best period. It was really tough."

A more specific sliding-doors moment came when Derby County failed to win the 2014 Championship play-off final. Had they earned promotion to the Premier League then De Jong would have had an immediate chance of redemption in England given that Steve McClaren, the Derby manager, had been his coach at Twente. "There was a little bit of interest, I had a good connection with Steve," he says.

Instead he signed for the first of two stints with PSV and then in 2019 joined Sevilla, where he was to win the Europa League with a man-of-the-match performance against Inter Milan, during which he scored that famous header when time seemed to stand still.

"It's a technical header," he says. "The pass from Éver Banega comes to the far post. You don't need to find speed, you just have to put it back over the goalkeeper. These are the headers you really want to see, in the side-netting of the far post. It's something you do automatically. It's so quick and, because you've done it over and over again, it's something your body does automatically."

His parents were international volleyball players. The 6ft 2in forward's mum played for a small club in Switzerland and his dad coached there. He and his brother were born in Aigle but the family moved back to the Netherlands when he was four.

He credits his parents with giving him his athleticism. "My playing style, with my aerial ability, it's quite similar to volleyball — the timing, the jumping — instead of using my hands, I use my head," he says. "I think it's in my genes." He played volleyball when he was younger. "We did some two v two, my dad and me against my brother and my mother. It was quite competitive but, in the end, my mother and my brother won because my brother was a little older."

Had he stuck to volleyball, he would not be quite so highly remunerated. "I think you're right," he says, smiling. "I think I chose the right path."

While his stint at Newcastle was a damp squib, at Barcelona, where he went on loan two years ago, there were fireworks. "The start of my time at Barcelona was difficult," he says. "People wondered why was I going there, there were a lot of questions, but in the second half of the season I scored some important goals as a substitute, as a Plan B, and winning some games. At the end the whole crowd was singing my name, and that is something I am really proud of."

PSV qualified for the group stage after defeating, first, Sturm Graz 7-2 on aggregate and then Rangers 7-3 and he points out that such results provide a firm foundation for the forthcoming games against Arsenal,



De Jong struggled at Newcastle but has thrived since

Lens and Sevilla in group B, starting at Emirates Stadium tomorrow.

"These are the moments you dream of as a little kid," he says. "I've played a lot but still you want to compete at this level. We heard the anthem and I still got the…chicken pox?"

I suggest if the Champions League gives him chicken pox, then he may become quite unwell. "Goosebumps!" he replies, explaining later he was grasping for the translation.

It is doubtful that PSV will be overly pragmatic when facing Arsenal. After all, they defeated Mikel Arteta's side in the group stage of the Europa League last October.

"I don't want to say too much, because I don't want to give away too much information," De Jong says. "I'm kidding! Maybe we will change some things tactically. You have to watch out against teams like Arsenal as little errors will kill you."

De Jong has retired from Holland duty after winning 39 caps, preferring to use the international break to recuperate. I wonder, given his age, whether he will end his career in the Saudi Pro League. "Is that the new question we get now?" he says, laughing. "Never say never, but I'm not really thinking about this at the moment. I am playing for a beautiful club, close to my family and friends, and I don't think I am in a position where I have to think about going there. But if something happens and you are not playing any more…"

Arsenal v PSV, tomorrow 8pm, TNT Sports 1

Henry Winter

Football writer of the year



Save ire for Fernandes, not Ten Hag

Manchester United need new owners, not a new manager. United need more players to stand up and take responsibility, not simply let their manager take the heat for problems bedevilling team and club.

A theme runs like a burning fuse through Old Trafford and that is the failure of too many individuals, from boardroom to dressing room, from the wretched Glazers to moody Jadon Sancho, to take responsibility.

The manager, Erik ten Hag, is a man who takes responsibility, always has done, and who suffers when his team struggle. He cares. As he told his players after the 4-0 defeat away to Brentford last season: "We're paid to deliver a performance and you can't deliver this." He famously sent them out running, and ran with them. He wants individual and collective responsibility.

So the first real signs of dissent towards Ten Hag from the United fan base need addressing and resisting. Many booed his decision to withdraw Rasmus Hojlund, their exciting new forward, when trailing 2-0 to Brighton & Hove Albion at Old Trafford on Saturday. Ten Hag's decision seemed an act of surrender, an affront to the club's attacking traditions, and an insult to fans who pay substantial sums to be there and expect to see a team who fight for the famous badge.

Ten Hag was simply being responsible towards the player. Hojlund's return to action after a back problem is being carefully managed by club and country. He came on for 23 minutes against Arsenal, for 31 minutes and 41 minutes for Denmark against San Marino and Finland respectively, and finally enjoyed a very encouraging 64 minutes from the start against Brighton.

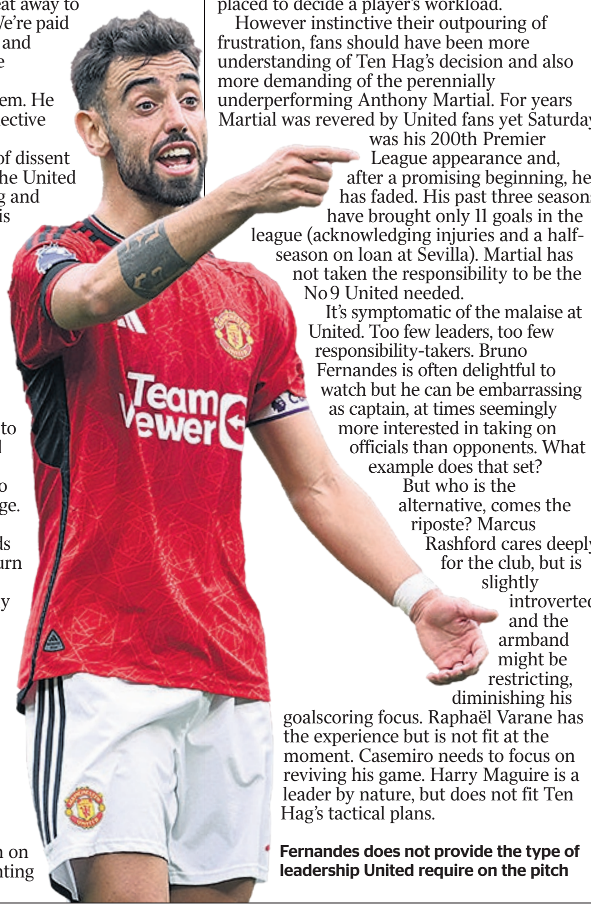
Hojlund's style — high on energy, pressing and hunting scoring positions — is inevitably draining, especially when marked by Lewis Dunk. Hojlund did well against the Brighton centre back, using stealth and strength to lose him at times, but he was always going to tire. Ten Hag was right to remove Hojlund when he did. He couldn't risk a key player straying into the red zone, suffering a setback and a spell out. That would be irresponsible.

United fans are desperate for a saviour and Hojlund looks to possess the right character and skillset to spread hope on the Stretford End. But a professional such as Ten Hag, supported by sport scientists and medical staff, is better placed to decide a player's workload.

However instinctive their outpouring of frustration, fans should have been more understanding of Ten Hag's decision and also more demanding of the perennially underperforming Anthony Martial. For years Martial was revered by United fans yet Saturday was his 200th Premier League appearance and, after a promising beginning, he has faded. His past three seasons have brought only 11 goals in the league (acknowledging injuries and a half-season on loan at Sevilla). Martial has not taken the responsibility to be the No 9 United needed.

It's symptomatic of the malaise at United. Too few leaders, too few responsibility-takers. Bruno Fernandes is often delightful to watch but he can be embarrassing as captain, at times seemingly more interested in taking on officials than opponents. What example does that set?

But who is the alternative, comes the riposte? Marcus Rashford cares deeply for the club, but is slightly introverted and the armband might be restricting, diminishing his goalscoring focus. Raphaël Varane has the experience but is not fit at the moment. Casemiro needs to focus on reviving his game. Harry Maguire is a leader by nature, but does not fit Ten Hag's tactical plans.



Fernandes does not provide the type of leadership United require on the pitch

Gone are the days when United had a host of responsibility-takers, captains such as Martin Buchan, Bryan Robson, Roy Keane and Gary Neville. Their dressing rooms brimmed with responsibility-takers, Gordon McQueen, Steve Bruce, Peter Schmeichel, Paul Scholes, Michael Carrick, and on it goes. Or there it went.

The academy system, football generally — even society — produces fewer leaders, yet look at those standing up for Brighton's cause, including Dunk, Danny Welbeck, Adam Lallana, James Milner, Kaoru Mitoma and Jason Steele, all taking responsibility on Saturday. Brighton nurture and recruit good characters as well as players. Brighton have unity from top to bottom, and a culture of togetherness and accountability. Brighton have the culture that once shaped United.

"Individuals have to step up," Ten Hag said after the loss. The manager, too, has to take responsibility for not responding to Roberto De Zerbi's successful changes to nullify United's diamond, devised to accommodate the absence of Sancho and Antony as right wingers. He will examine his own performance. Will others?

Last season's achievements, third place and winning the League Cup, highlighted Ten Hag's qualities. He's not the problem at United, he's just the man charged with clearing up the mess. Mason Greenwood admits his behaviour in a personal relationship lacked responsibility and his special footballing talent is now, rightly, denied to United.

Ten Hag was praised for his sympathetic handling of Sancho last season, giving the troubled player time off. Maybe Ten Hag's patience simply ran out with Sancho, who is now training away from the first team. Sancho has to take responsibility for his drifting career. With Antony, who has been given paid leave to tackle allegations of domestic abuse, claims he denies, the situation needs to play out before any proper conclusion can be drawn. At the very least, it as an unwanted distraction for United.

Players have a responsibility to fans, to Ten Hag and to their employers. It is not Ten Hag's fault that Lisandro Martínez and Casemiro have mislaid their air of invincibility or that injuries have inhibited Mason Mount's impact and delayed Sofyan Amrabat's. It is not Ten Hag's fault that commercial imperatives sent United off on an exhausting pre-season via Olso, Edinburgh, New Jersey, San Diego, Houston, Las Vegas and Dublin. United's itinerary reads like a (rather enjoyable) gap year, when it was an intense 25 days. It would be interesting to know what the medical staff think of the travel and workload.

All the while, the Glazers sweat the brand. It has been painfully obvious for a decade that the absence of answerability damaging United emanates from the Glazers. They take money but not responsibility. Even the funds invested in recruitment ultimately come from fans' pockets. United need new owners and a new culture, one that reads: ask not what your club can do for you but what you can do for your club.

The fear among fans is that the Glazers will stay on knowing their asset will grow in value when broadcast packages are inevitably unbundled. When platforms like Apple step in, United will become the Theatre of Streams.

The Glazers staying means the mutinous mood continues, meaning life remains exacting for Ten Hag. As the public face of the club, he has to front up to questions, off-field and on. As United are England's biggest club, the scrutiny is multiplied. It's a job of so many facets and demands. Ultimately, Ten Hag is a football coach, a very good one as he proved last year by guiding United to third place, the League Cup and to the FA Cup final. He has so many responsibilities. Unlike some others at United, Ten Hag is prepared to take them.

Officials should explain decisions

VAR's decision to rule out Gabriel Martinelli's effort for Arsenal against Everton was correct, as Eddie Nketiah was offside under the guidelines, but it was baffling to fans inside Goodison Park. It is arrogant of Ifab, the board who determine the Laws of the Game, to forbid discussions between officials to be relayed live in the stadium. Fans deserved to hear referee Simon Hooper's thought process on why Beto did not "deliberately play" the ball which Nketiah profited from. It may make crowds more understanding of officials.

Game is in debt to Bennell survivors

Hearing of the death in prison yesterday of Barry Bennell, the former youth football coach who was jailed for abusing more than 20 boys, stirred only renewed contempt for him and continued respect and admiration for the survivors of his reign of abuse. Their bravery in speaking out was remarkable. The game remains in their debt.

Wounded United a danger, says Kane

Paul Hirst, Tom Allnutt

Harry Kane is wary of a backlash from Manchester United when they take on his Bayern Munich side in the Champions League tomorrow.

United have been beset by off-the-field problems this season and their form on the pitch has been woeful, losing three of their opening five matches. Their latest dismal offering came on Saturday when they lost 3-1 at home to Brighton & Hove Albion, who had 56 per cent possession and twice as many shots on target.

However Kane, who joined Bayern in a £100 million transfer from Tottenham Hotspur last month, has warned his team-mates that United will be no pushover in their group A clash at the Allianz Arena. "I'm expecting a difficult game," Kane, 30, told Sports Illustrated. "I know Manchester United are having a difficult moment right now, but sometimes teams like that are dangerous because they're always looking to come back in a big way. So we have to be prepared for them.

"The Champions League is always special and my first game with Bayern Munich will stay with me — so I hope it goes well."

Kane has settled in well at his new club, scoring four goals in his first four Bundesliga matches, the most recent of which came in Friday's 2-2 draw against Bayer Leverkusen. The England captain attributed his quick adaptation to the Bayern head coach, Thomas Tuchel — whom he described as "one of the top coaches in the world" — the fact he has been embraced as a leader in the dressing room and the warm welcome given to him by the Bayern staff and fans.

"Everything has been fantastic so far," Kane said. "Everyone has been very friendly and helped me to settle in as quickly as possible."

United's problems have been compounded by an injury to Aaron Wan-Bissaka, the exact nature of which has not been specified by the club. United did say the 25-year-old defender would be out for "several weeks".

It leaves them with only two fit recognised full backs; Diogo Dalot and the loan signing, Sergio Reguilón.

Everton takeover triggers repayment of £140m loans

Everton's prospective new owners 777 Partners will have to pay back £140 million provided by two lenders for the club's new stadium should their deal to buy out Farhad Moshiri proceed (Paul Joyce writes).

MSP Sports Capital offered a £100 million loan after their own attempt to acquire some of Moshiri's shares collapsed, while businessmen Andy Bell and George Downing also put down about £40 million towards the completion of the 52,888-capacity arena at Bramley-Moore Dock.

Under the terms of the deals, however, a change of ownership would mean that those loans have to be repaid and Miami-based 777 Partners are now set to request meetings with both parties in the hope of keeping them involved.

Moshiri agreed to sell his 94.1 per cent shareholding in Everton to 777 Partners last week in a performance-related deal that is subject to approval from the Premier League, the FA and the Financial Conduct Authority. A decision is not expected until later in the year after next month's hearing into whether Everton have breached profit and sustainability rules.

While sources suggest that 777 and Moshiri are confident of a positive outcome with the creditors, any hitch would increase the financial burden on the US firm, who would have to find fresh funding for the £550 million stadium and cover Everton's running costs. Everton also have deferred payments on deals for signings Beto (£26 million) and Youssef Chermiti (£15 million) until next year.

We will protect our young fly half from Wales onslaught, vows Jones

Elgan Alderman Versailles

TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER MARC ASPLAND



Wales v Australia
Pool C
Lyon
Sunday, 8pm
TV: ITV1

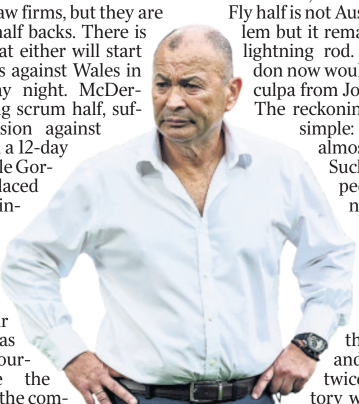
Gordon was replaced after a tough 49 minutes against Fiji and Jones, inset, has admitted that Wales will target his rookie

It does not require a creative leap to imagine what Eddie Jones would be thinking if his team was coming up against Carter Gordon, the young Australia fly half, this weekend.

Followers of Welsh rugby will recall the England build-up in 2018 when Jones went for Rhys Patchell, who at the time was 24 and making his second Test start at No10. "He's a young guy, he's inexperienced and is their third-choice 10," he said. "I'd imagine that when Alun Wyn Jones and the guys go down for breakfast on Saturday morning, they'll be looking at him thinking: can this kid handle the pressure today?" Two years earlier, Jones apologised after invoking Johnny Sexton's head injuries before a game.

This week Jones is on the other side of the equation, as his young team face Wales in a match that if lost could mean Australia do not qualify out of their pool. Taking one No10 to the World Cup, a 22-year-old who made his debut in July, was always a gamble by Jones. The morning after Australia's 22-15 defeat by Fiji, Jones was asked if Wales would go for Gordon. "There's no team in the world that doesn't target the opposition 10," he said. "They are the conductor of the team and if you can get to them, you get to them. There's various ways you can look after your 10 and we'll have a look at that this week."

Tate McDermott and Carter Gordon may sound like law firms, but they are also Australia's half backs. There is no guarantee that either will start for the Wallabies against Wales in Lyon on Sunday night. McDermott, the starting scrum half, suffered a concussion against Georgia and had a 12-day stand-down, while Gordon was replaced after 49 tough minutes against Fiji.



Fiji had their own fly-half problems. Caleb Muntz, all 23 years and four caps of him, was ruled out of the tournament before the Wales game, yet the combination of Teti Tela at No10 and Simione Kuruvoli, initially the second-choice No9, kicking goals from scrum half did the trick. With Ben Donaldson as the pivot, himself only 24 and with five caps, Australia improved in the final half hour, but not by enough.

Fly half is not Australia's only problem but it remains the low-lying lightning rod. Jettisoning Gordon now would be a severe mea culpa from Jones.

The reckoning for Australia is simple: lose and they are almost certainly gone. Such is the Wallaby pedigree at this tournament that, not only have they reached the quarter-finals on all nine previous occasions, they have made it to the semis six times and won the shebang twice. For Wales, victory would secure their passage to the last eight with a game to spare; defeat heralds the calculator, and could even leave Wales as the least likely of the three teams to progress.

This is the third pool stage in a row in which the sides have met, yet the build-up differs drastically to four years ago. Between 2009 and 2017, Wales lost 13 in a row against the Wallabies, many of them excruciating. The hoodoo went bye-bye in 2018, a 9-6 win in Cardiff, and then Wales won a thriller 29-25 in Tokyo. Since then there have been only two meetings: a 29-28 win for Wales in the autumn of 2021, thanks to Rhys Priestland's last-kick penalty after Rob Valetini's first-half red card, and a 39-34 reverse in Cardiff 12 months later.

That marked the end of Wayne Pivac's time as head coach. Wales led 34-13 but a familiar frailty took hold, conceding four tries in the last 23 minutes. Thirteen members of that Wales 23 are in the World Cup squad, and Donaldson was Australia's fly half.

Both teams have changed their head coach in the past ten months. Dave Rennie was sacked in January and in came Jones, newly released from the RFU. Warren Gatland was in line for the England and Wales jobs, but he returned to the nation he had overseen from 2008-19. Jones and Gatland enjoyed a spar until the end: when Gatland suggested England had peaked too early at the previous World Cup, Jones told him to enjoy the bronze final.

And so to Sunday, when Wales's aim will be to force Australia's seventh defeat in eight matches under Jones. They will take on a pack depleted by the absence of Will Skelton and Taniela Tupou, two men with so much to offer as scrummagers and ball-carriers.

Which of Gatland and Jones will get it right this week, preparing their players for a match that was expected to decide the pool winner, but now has Wales as favourites to consign the Wallabies to ignominy? "When you have a loss like this it knocks you around a bit…emotionally and team ethics-wise," Jones said. "You start seeing shadows in every corner of the room." Those shadows could be national gloom come Sunday night.

Erasmus hints at seven forwards on the bench

South Africa are considering a seven to one split between forwards and backs on their bench for the match against Ireland on Saturday, according to their director of rugby Rassie Erasmus.

There were eyebrows raised when the Springboks went with the same ratio against New Zealand in their record 35-7 warm-up victory at Twickenham last month. Now Erasmus says it is something they are thinking about for the pool B encounter in Paris.

"I don't think we can go eight to zero, that is a bit extreme, but seven to one is definitely an option," Erasmus said. "The six to two split a couple of years back was new to people and now a lot of teams are doing it."

Erasmus ruled out playing the Leicester fly half Handré Pollard, who has been brought in to replace injured hooker Malcolm Marx. Having been left out of the original squad because of a calf injury, he will only be considered for the last pool game with Tonga.

"He has just played 40 minutes for Leicester," Erasmus said.

France set to recall big guns to face Namibia

France look set to name a strong line-up to face Namibia. After their opening victory against New Zealand, a second-string side looked mediocre in their next pool A match against Uruguay.

The last two training sessions before Thursday's game against Namibia in Bordeaux suggest the scrum half Antoine Dupont and the fly half Matthieu Jalibert will be in the starting line-up. Prop Cyril Baille may also return from injury, as could centre Jonathan Danty.

New Zealand's De Groot to miss final pool games

The prop Ethan de Groot will be suspended for New Zealand's final two pool A matches against Italy and Uruguay after his red card against Namibia. The 25-year-old has been handed a three-match ban, which will be reduced to two on completion of World Rugby's coaching intervention programme, for his high tackle on Adriaan Booysen. De Groot was shown a yellow card which was upgraded by the "bunker" review system.



Ford or Farrell? Why not pick both of them

Alex Lowe



Rugby Correspondent

England are winning matches — which makes a pleasant change — if not hearts and minds. When you consider the hordes who travel to watch England teams play abroad, it was disappointing to see 5,000 empty seats at the Stade de Nice on Sunday night, even accounting for the fact that this is an expensive World Cup to attend, it is not especially fan friendly and England are hardly the great entertainers.

But Steve Borthwick's men are making a virtue of the fact. The England head coach is right when he says that World Cups are about finding a way to win. He cites the fact that England won the Webb Ellis trophy in 2003 and reached the final in 2007 scoring only four tries in eight Tests against Tier One opponents.

Thus far, England have done enough, winning with 14 men against Argentina and grinding against Japan for an hour before accelerating to a bonus-point victory. It is not the sort of rugby to win beauty contests and almost certainly not the sort of rugby to win a World Cup, but they have at least built a foundation in the tournament.

It feels as if England are now entering phase two of their mission in France. They have three weeks, including games against Chile and Samoa, until a likely quarter-final against one of Wales, Fiji or Australia. Rotation is on the cards for the Chile game and Owen Farrell, the captain, is available after serving his ban, which opens up a chance to rebalance the back division.

The fundamentals are set for the tournament. They are a kick-pressure team. They will not be emulating Portugal or Fiji and attacking from deep. The analytics say that the risk of turnover is too high. Computer says no.

England have two main issues: they have not been good enough at capitalising on their kick-pressure tactic — they are the most profligate of the leading nations at this World Cup — and too often they are failing to identify when the best option is to pass.

George Ford has been excellent at fly half but even he cannot see it all. From high up in the stands on Sunday, it was stark that either England's rugby was too telegraphed or they had no attacking shape at all, leaving the kick as Ford's only option. The moment that triggered boos from England fans in Nice was when they won turnover ball and kicked it dead. "We are not happy with where we are attack-wise," Richard Wigglesworth, the assistant coach, said.

England need another playmaker in that back line; they need that second pair of eyes. It may be different if England had a scrum half in the vein of Faf de Klerk or Jamison Gibson-Park, a general who can run the show from No 9. But they do not. The question is what combination of Ford, Farrell and Marcus Smith they should play. There is a subtly different balance between having the second playmaker in midfield and at full back.

"If you've got a genuine playmaker at No 12, you've obviously got another set of eyes close to the ball," Wigglesworth said. If you rewind to 2003, Jonny Wilkinson always says he would have been half the player without Will Greenwood or Mike Catt on his shoulder communicating space out wide while he focused on the ruck.

"Teams who have that playmaker at 12 use him flat to the line with options around him to keep the defence tight and then play out the back to try to get their guys a bit more space out wide," Wigglesworth said.

"With the dual playmaker at 15 — and I played with one in Alex Goode — and obviously Marcus has come on and done a great job for us, they can get the ball slightly wider and slightly earlier and then do the damage out there. There's little subtle differences and you definitely need a blend in your team."

Wigglesworth did not rule out fielding Ford, Farrell and Smith against Chile. New Zealand, after all, operate with Richie Mo'unga, Beauden Barrett and Jordie Barrett in their back line, although the latter is that rare beast who can play at international standard in any jersey between No 10 and No 15.

Smith was a real threat off the bench against Japan's weary defenders, his pace and footwork helping England to score two late tries and secure the bonus point. "He is desperate to get his hands on the ball and he's been really smart with where he positions himself and hasn't tried to play like a No 10 out wide," Wigglesworth said.

"He's gone, 'Get me the ball and then I'll play on.' Then he'll use the capability he's got with his feet and his acceleration. It's really testament to him about how smart he is. I've been really impressed with him."

Smith would be the populist choice to start at full back in a quarter-final but, for all Wigglesworth's praise, it remains improbable at this stage given England will also be weighing up defensive responsibilities, and they rate Freddie Steward's presence under the high ball. Smith remains a jack-in-the-box bench option for the final quarter.

Defence is also a consideration in midfield. Four years ago Eddie Jones dropped Ford for the quarter-final against Australia to beef up England's midfield.

Borthwick has always liked the Ford-Farrell combination, although he has had no chance to assess it at first hand since taking charge. There would be concerns that Farrell's presence would inhibit Ford's ability to run the game. But the pair have been present for almost all of England's best days since 2016: the grand slam and the 3-0 series win in Australia that year, the 2017 Six Nations title and the 2019 World Cup semi-final.

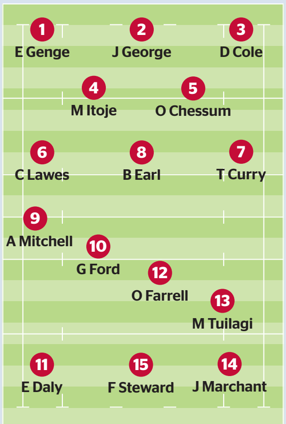
"It definitely can work because it's worked before for England," Wigglesworth said. "They have played a lot of rugby together, so I've no doubt that if that's the way Steve goes with selection they will make it work. We want to be tactically flexible, so that's where selection comes in."

Borthwick, Wigglesworth and the other coaches had their first selection meeting for Saturday's Chile game last night, but everything now is about planning for the quarter-final stage. Farrell needs to play against Chile, so too does Smith. But come the knockout stage, expect England to go in with the control of Ford and Farrell, holding back Smith for a cameo off the bench.

What is England's best team?

Our rugby writers pick their match-day 23 for a potential World Cup quarter-final

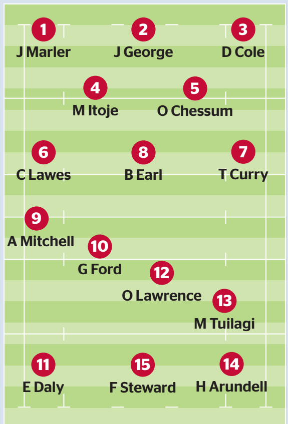
Alex Lowe



Bench T Dan, J Marler, K Sinckler, G Martin, B Vunipola, D Care, O Lawrence, M Smith

• England are playing with control and kick pressure for an hour before trying to up the tempo, so this is the best balance

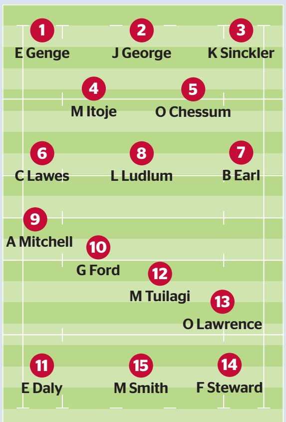
Owen Slot



Bench T Dan, E Genge, K Sinckler, L Ludlam, J Willis, B Youngs, M Smith, J Marchant

• Understand your limits, play to strengths: so here's a pack with your best scrummagers starting and your ball-players coming on when the game loosens up

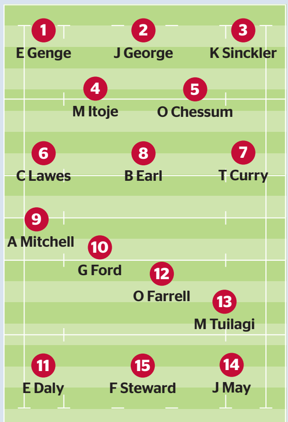
Stuart Barnes



Bench T Dan, J Marler, W Stuart, J Willis, L Ludlum, D Care, O Farrell, H Arundell

• Tell Mitchell and Daly to be themselves, Steward to catch cross kicks, Smith to prove the management wrong and the pack to give it everything

Will Kelleher



Bench T Dan, J Marler, D Cole, G Martin, L Ludlam, D Care, O Lawrence, J Marchant

• Farrell's return should in theory allow England's attack to grow. He has a telepathic relationship with Ford, but needs to let the latter run the game from No 10

World leaders at using the boot

Kicks in play per game in 2023

	Total kicks	Total kicking metres	Kicks	Metres
England	366	10,894	33.3	990
Australia	123	4,124	30.8	1,031
France	326	10,654	29.6	969
Ireland	283	9,176	28.3	918
New Zealand	111	3,515	27.8	879
Wales	266	7,593	26.6	759
South Africa	125	2,872	25	574
Scotland	244	8,065	24.4	807
Argentina	65	2,361	21.7	787
Fiji	135	4,180	19.3	597

Source: Stat Perform



'The ball is

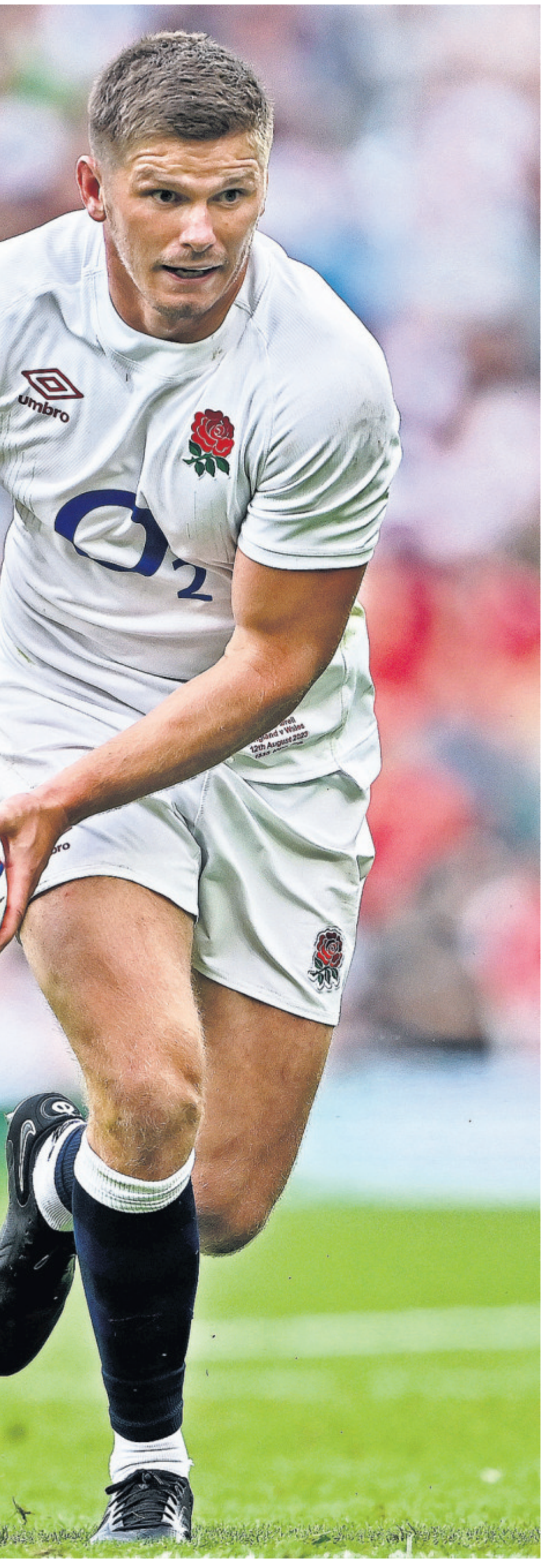
CONTINUED FROM BACK

put off by poor transport options, which is making it difficult for them to get into and out of the stadiums.

George Ford, the fly half, echoed Marler's view. "We're here to win games, aren't we? That's our job," Ford, 30, said. "We're here to win Test matches. We want to make every fan and every English fan proud.

"We understand the sacrifice and commitment they make to come and support us and we value that so highly. But we want to be a winning team and we want them [the fans] to be proud of a winning team as well." Ford said that

DAN MULLAN/THE RFU/GETTY IMAGES; MICHAEL STEELE/WORLD RUGBY/GETTY IMAGES; NICOLAS TUCAT/AFP/GETTY IMAGES





Clockwise from left: Farrell, who is available after his ban, Ford and Smith could all play against Fiji, but come the quarter-final stage, Farrell and Ford are likely to get the nod



like a bar of soap at times, it's hard'

England's spluttering attacking play was largely down to the conditions in Nice — it was a sultry, humid night, which made the ball slippery.

"You've got to understand how difficult it is out there," Ford added. "The last two games especially, it's like a bar of soap that ball at times.

"I know it may not look like it out there from the stands or watching on TV, but it's actually more difficult than if it was throwing it down [raining] because of the grease and sweat on the ball.

"It doesn't mean you can't have the intent to move it and score tries. Of course we want to have that and we need to be good when we do, but the main thing is building field position and pressure and doing the best thing to win the game.

"What's the best way to win Test matches, especially in those conditions? It's to make smart decisions, win field position and then try to be clinical when the clear and obvious opportunities come.

"We're probably going to look back at some of the decisions and say we could have done better. Of course we will. But I think we got it right."

Richard Wigglesworth, the attack coach, said he wants England to improve against Chile on Saturday, while recognising the fans have the right to boo the players if they do not like what they are seeing. "We are not happy with where we are attack-wise," Wigglesworth said. "That is not to do with the kicking game. It is not separate from it either. It is all tied up.

"We want to kick the ball brilliantly, so we either get it back in a better position or we kick to score.

"As far as the booing goes, it is part and parcel of what you do in international sport. You are in the biggest arenas and the fans are entitled to do what they feel is right. We will all strive to improve so we are as efficient as we can be with the ball."

Fiji's newfound discipline will worry England

Likely quarter-finalists look real deal and should be promoted to the Rugby Championship, writes **Owen Slot**

In the aftermath of the Flying Fijians's historic victory over Australia in Saint-Étienne on Sunday, we tried to keep a straight face and be professional about it all. In reality, you were only not caught under the spell of it all if you were an Aussie or if you did not have a soul.

The Fijians stayed on the pitch afterwards to sing a song. And they owed a vocal response to the crowd who had been so fully invested. A deep chant of "Fiji! Fiji!" peppered with a drumbeat handclap rhythm had been the soundtrack to the evening, only really broken when you paused because you couldn't quite believe what you were seeing.

I was particularly entranced by the scrum half, Simione Kuruvoli, who Simon Raiwalui, the head coach, said he hoped would probably be fit again for the next game because they would give him lots of pickle juice. It is hard not to fall for their strong cultural identity — not just their power and pace and preposterous offloads, but their differences off the pitch too. Raiwalui, for instance, said afterwards that they were grateful for all the help World Rugby had given them for this campaign, but that while they were not able to afford "luxuries" such as the sports psychologists that other teams could enlist, at least "we are able to bring in a reverend".

The mark of this 2023 model Fiji, though, may be that they are morphing more towards the rest of the game. That is not to say they are losing their identity but they aren't playing so relentlessly loosely, they are mending the traditional weaknesses, they are playing a more controlled game and they compete at the set piece, even if their lineout completely deserted them in the second half against Australia.

But then Fiji certainly wouldn't be Fiji without a measure of the old heart-stopping uncertainty. They wouldn't be Fiji without two back-fielders jumping for the same kick, with everyone in the stadium completely aware that they may be about to blow the whole game — everyone except the two Fijians under the ball.

Perhaps the least Fijian element of their 22-15 victory over Australia was that they embraced the ethos of building a score, not in fives or sevens but in threes, and that was down to Kuruvoli.

There can't be many in the game who can honestly claim to have known a lot about Kuruvoli because he is 24 and he missed the Fijian Drua's entire Super Rugby season. What we do know is that he is from Kadavu, Fiji's fourth-largest island, he likes Milo, the Nestlé chocolate milk drink, and he has hardly kicked before.

But Glen Jackson, the former Saracens and Maori All Blacks fly half who has been working with the Fijian kickers, noted that he had been nailing everything in training. That is why he got the nod in preference to the more experienced Frank Lomani, who started against Wales.

The point is that Fiji are overcoming the stereotypes. Some other traditional weaknesses are that they can't kick at goal and that they lack control at half back. Yet Kuruvoli stepped up and pretty much cured both on his own. His goalkicking was immaculate: five out of five, some of them long and some from the touchline. Asked afterwards if this was business as usual for him, he said: "To be honest, nah," and then explained that, "I normally just do the scrum part and feed the balls but I don't have [to do] the kicking bit."

So yes, they are looking increasingly like the complete team, which isn't exactly what England will want to know, not with Fiji now looming as their most likely quarter-final opposition. The odds have to favour Wales beating Australia on Sunday and qualifying first, thus pitching England back in against Fiji, who embarrassed them at Twickenham less than a month ago.

However, it is just too parochial to be looking at Fiji's rise through the filter of "what it means for England". The appropriate filter is what it should do for the world. While it is entirely reasonable to observe that the established giants of this team are now in their last cycle — Levani Botia is 34, Semi Radradra is 31 and Waisea Nayacalevu is 33 — the Drua project has become a production line with players such as Kuruvoli popping up at a rate that suggests that this shouldn't be the height of a cycle, it could be a height that is retained.

Rather than leave to seek their fortunes in New Zealand and Australia, there are now Fijian players starting to come the other way. Watch out for Fiji's highly rated under-20 team. So if the game and its administrators really care, if they really want to give Fiji the opportunity to advance their game, then rather than have them as something exotic that brightens up the scene every four years, they would promote them to the Rugby Championship.

The rise of Fiji is now a proper, decent body of work and boy are they entertaining to watch.

Those paying attention here may find this a familiar theme. We said the same four years ago when Japan beat Scotland and Ireland, but then Covid-19 happened, the world stood still and the moment was lost.

Let's not lose it this time.



Kuruvoli's goalkicking was perfect against Australia

Sport



Henry Winter

Don't boo Ten Hag, he's the only true leader United have

Page 58

'Let us win ugly, as we did in 2003'

Marler insists England will not change approach

Will Kelleher Deputy Rugby Correspondent, Le Touquet

Joe Marler has hit back at criticism of England's pragmatic style of play and said that "winning ugly" is exactly how the 2003 team lifted the World Cup.

Steve Borthwick's side have won their opening two matches in pool D, against Argentina and Japan, but they failed to score a try in their first game — albeit they played for most of their 27-10 win over the Pumas with 14 men — and were then booed by some England fans when they kicked relentlessly against Japan in Nice.

England became more expansive as the game went on, scoring four tries to claim a 34-12 bonus-point win, and they are odds-on to make the quarter-finals, with Chile and Samoa to come. Marler was unapologetic in saying that they will not be changing their approach.

Asked if England need to finesse their game plan when they meet stiffer opposition, the 33-year-old prop replied: "Finesse? Why do you have to finesse it? You've just got to win, haven't you? What did England do 20 years ago? Find a way to win in the World Cup.

"You talk about style of play, a lot of people do. They [the England team who won the 2003 World Cup] went a couple of phases, Jonny [Wilkinson] slotted some penalties and some drop-goals. They won ugly during a lot of that tournament, but we don't talk about that now, do we? We talk about them winning the World Cup. You forget about how we did it.

"You don't talk about South Africa getting pumped in the first game against New Zealand [in 2019], you talk about them pumping us in the final and then lifting the trophy.

"We'll keep trying to take the lessons from each game. We'll take the lessons and we'll keep trying to finesse. Ultimately, it's about the win.

"We're not getting ahead of ourselves at all. You'll get the same boring cliché from me that we'll take one game at a time. Ultimately, it is about winning."

In 2003, England went into the tournament as the No1-ranked side in the world. They defeated South Africa and Samoa and thrashed Uruguay and Georgia, before grinding out victories over Wales, France and Australia in the knockout stage — scoring only two tries in those three games — to lift the trophy.

Borthwick's team dropped to eighth in the world before this tournament after losing to Fiji at Twickenham, but they are now well-placed to top their pool and play either Wales, Australia or Fiji in the quarter-finals.

Yet many England fans find them difficult to watch because of their unadventurous approach.

The attendance for the Fiji defeat was 56,854, well short of Twickenham's 82,000 capacity.

In Nice, the stadium was officially sold out for the Japan game but the confirmed attendance was 5,000 short of its 35,000 capacity, as large blocks were left empty. World Cup organisers believe that some supporters have been

Continued on page 60

JASON CAIRNDUFF/ACTION IMAGES/REUTERS



Pep: Don't be one-hit wonders

The coach Pep Guardiola instructs Erling Haaland as Manchester City prepare to begin the defence of their Champions League title tonight, pages 56-57

2028 hosts set for qualifiers

Martyn Ziegler Chief Sports Reporter

England will have to play qualifying matches for Euro 2028, even if they are the main host nation for the tournament, under a plan being considered by Uefa.

The 24-team tournament is expected to be co-hosted by England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland and Northern Ireland but Uefa will award a maximum of only two automatic qualification spots. It comes as ITV announced a new TV deal for England matches including Euro 2028 qualifiers.

The plan believed to be the favoured option would be for all five hosts to play in the qualifying groups, with the two automatic spots held in reserve for any host nation that fails to make it. If three or four host countries fail to qualify, the best two would take the reserve spots. Uefa will officially award the

Continued on page 55

Sussex given points penalty

Elizabeth Ammon

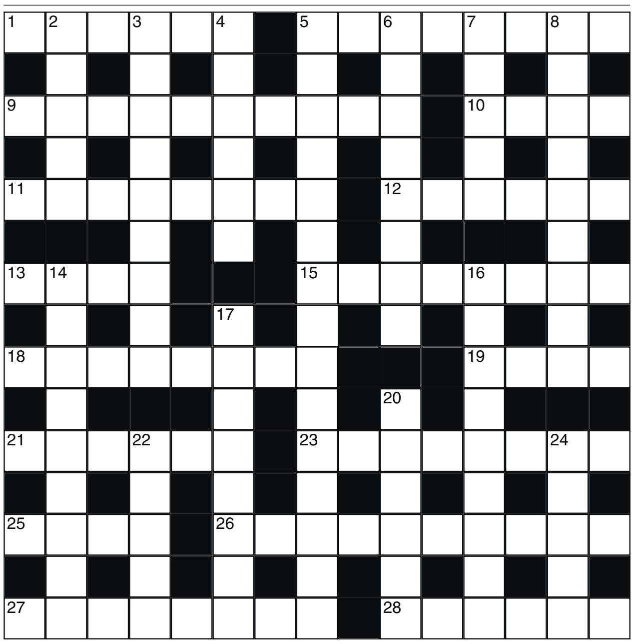
Sussex have been docked 12 points, had their captain banned for one match and dropped three players after a series of disciplinary offences, effectively ending their hopes of promotion in the County Championship.

The county received their third and fourth disciplinary penalties this season for incidents during their 15-run win over Leicestershire at Hove last week. Under ECB regulations, accumulating four penalties in one season triggers a 12-point deduction and a one-match suspension for the captain — in this instance, India's Cheteshwar Pujara.

Sussex already had two penalties from April. Pujara was punished for "wilfully mistreating any part of the cricket ground or equipment" while

Continued on page 54

Times Crossword 28,712



ACROSS

1 Take road to miraculous place? It may be a hoax (6)
5 Dimmest female faces an ordeal outside home (8)
9 Dominates a group? Eric, our teacher, does this (5,5)
10 Girl showing passion, taking time to come to the fore (4)
11 Father's quiet, mother's initially ignored (8)
12 Engineers admitting notice must be constructed afresh (6)
13 Divine male 'urries along (4)
15 The crafted publicity surrounding a performer (8)
18 No payment for medical assistance, making one relaxed (8)
19 Pleasing sort of accent for which there is no answer (4)
21 Bird in sack losing tail? That's horrible! (6)
23 Sketch about an established body showing hostile gestures (3,5)
25 Vehicle occupied by male down-and-outs (4)
26 Friars: set involved with miracle (10)
27 Margaret's collecting last of the money for organised events (8)
28 Drinks got by criminals with little hesitation to imbibe (6)

DOWN

2 Distinctive character of a European capital locally (5)
3 One sent a message: "Groom must wear a flower" (9)
4 Respectable ancestry, with exception of son (6)
5 Must they seem rude? (4-6,5)
6 Put down number turning up for information exchange (8)
7 It's something symbolic to loving couple when one leaves (5)
8 Firm dates arranged — days of abstinence? (9)
14 Reportedly travelled half an hour to take advantage of wayside inn (9)
16 Covering a problem for rugby team in need of fresh talent? (9)
17 Men introducing the short picture that was a feature of TV (8)
20 Author gets nothing right? Gosh! (6)
22 Disturbance created by elevated clique (5)
24 Article penned by office worker, not entirely lucid (5)

Yesterday's solution 28,711



Check today's answers by ringing 0905 757 0141 by midnight. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke 0333 202 3390.

Newspapers support recycling
The recycled paper content of UK newspapers in 2020 was 67%

T STUDENTS

Know any students?

Help them to be challenged, informed and entertained with a student subscription for just £9.99 a year for three years. They can find out what's happening in the world with unlimited digital access to the news, our expert analysis plus advice, inspirational stories, celebrity interviews and much more.

Tell a student to visit thetimes.co.uk/student or scan the QR code



THE TIMES
THE SUNDAY TIMES
Know your times

Offer is for verified students only. New customers only. Billed as £9.99 per year for three years. Visit thetimes.co.uk/subscribe/student for full terms & conditions.


THIS ISN'T JUST FOOTBALL. THIS IS THE UEFA
Champions League
EXCLUSIVELY LIVE ON
TNT SPORTS
DISCOVERY+ | BT | SKY | VIRGIN MEDIA
UEFA
CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

TIMES 2

September 19 | 2023



Madam, did you pay for that artichoke?

Secrets of the middle-class pilferers

Rishi's love of Britney and Emily in Paris? I can guess who's to blame

Robert Crampton



Rishi Sunak reportedly knows all the words to Britney Spears's *… Baby One More Time*, a monster global hit in 1998, when the future prime minister was 18. He's known as a big *Emily in Paris* and *Bridgerton* fan. Plus, he loves Jilly Cooper, Coca-Cola, Nando's and chocolate. You have to ask: why does the British PM, a 43-year-old man, have the cultural tastes and palate of a 14-year-old girl? Albeit, in the case of Jilly's bonkbusters, a 14-year-old girl from 1985?

Mind you, Sunak also relaxes (in his hoodie and pool slides) to *Star Wars*, James Bond and Southampton FC, which are generally considered more male obsessions. On balance, though, Sunak's preferences tend towards those favoured by young women.

Sunak has two daughters — Krishna, born in 2011, and Anoushka, 2013. Which leads me to wonder: is he getting fed his cultural diet by his kids? They're way too young for Britney, although age and taste alignment matters far less these days, when every entertainment product of the past half-century or longer is instantly available digitally. It's entirely possible Sunak could suddenly profess a love of, say, Britpop, not out of nostalgia for his adolescence (when I assume he was too swotty to get involved) but from his children's discovery of Noel, Damon and Jarvis online a month ago. My daughter, 24, reignited my interest in Billy Joel, for instance, when I heard her humming tracks from *The Stranger*, which came out in 1977. I hadn't played that album, exceptional as it is, in decades.

Actually, I reckon Sunak's wife, Akshata, is behind his membership of the Britney Army. At 43, she's the right age. As is he, but I just can't see the Winchester College head boy as a devotee of bubblegum pop. I'm guessing Akshata is the *Emily in Paris* prime mover too. Although it doesn't do to stereotype: maybe Rishi got into Emily's antics all on his lonesome? Casting his red boxes aside one evening, flicking through channels,



Rishi loosens his tie and finds himself inexorably drawn by the perky Lily Collins, Gabriel the hot chef and the escapist shots of Paris … That's what happened to me, after all. Except for the red box bit.

I hope the Sunaks don't share their TV choices with the kids because — call me old-fashioned, but the girls' ages put them still on the young side for *E in P* (as we fans call it), *Bridgerton* or Jilly. Neither show (nor Jilly, obvs) holds back on the steamy scenes. I speak as someone who as a 13-year-old was allowed to stay up to watch *Play for Today*, in which the actors seldom wore any clothes, with my mum and dad and ever since has profoundly wished I'd been packed off to bed.

I've always thought "you learn as much from your children as they learn from you" was either obvious nonsense, or terrifying if true. And yet as your youngsters mature wisdom does start to flow in two directions. Even if his proclivities are his own at present, Sunak's girls will be a big influence soon enough. Personally, I'm grateful for the Taylor Swift steer, less enamoured of my son getting me hooked on fat American YouTubers playing with guns. Swings and roundabouts.

Sunak also loves Michael Bublé, by the way. I'm not sure where that fits into this analysis. Maybe his gran was a big fan.

Where the boats come in

I spend a fair bit of time in Kingsdown, the Kent village on the Channel coast where a lot of small boats pitch up on the beach, it being the first convenient landfall north of the white cliffs. Friends there tell stories of groups of young male asylum seekers surprised while sleeping in the woods, all naked, their sea-soaked clothes drying on trees. "I keep looking in my shed," my pal Barbara says with a sigh, "and I haven't found any naked men yet."

The joke doing the rounds at the moment is this: all you really need to do to stop the migrants would be to line up a rank of GP receptionists on the shingle. No bugger ever gets past them.

Don't miss the … road train?

Just as there are words you read in newspapers — "slain", "stormed", "doffed", "dubbed" — that nobody uses in real life, so there is a peculiarly specialised dialect employed by announcers on trains, rarely, if ever, heard elsewhere. Who says "beverage" any more, for instance? Or "alight" and "board" instead of "get off/on"? Or "purchase" rather than "buy"? Or, one of my favourites, "this train is formed of eight carriages" as opposed to "this train has eight carriages"?

When the announcers aren't sounding like a constipated Fifties Pathé newsreel, they're going to the other extreme and getting down with the kids via that notoriously irritating "see it, say it, sorted" slogan. And now, I learn, they've surpassed themselves with a new slice of choice jargon.

His train having given up the ghost at, I think, Crewe, a mate of mine and his fellow passengers were invited to take a "road train" by way of replacement transport to the next station up the line. Excited to see this new development in mass transit technology, everyone crowded onto the forecourt. Cue sighs of disappointment.

The "road train" turned out to be what most of us know as a "bus".

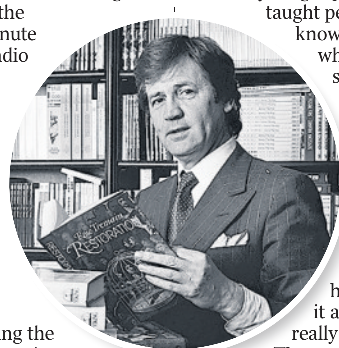
Gary Lineker is

As he celebrates the 1,000th episode of In Our Time, Melvyn Bragg tells Ben Dowell why BBC pay is a problem

'Dear Melvyn. Who was that arsehole on your programme who criticised JG? I worked with him and he taught me everything I know."

The author of words written in "black felt pen on a card" that Melvyn Bragg remembers with a hearty chuckle was Dame Judi Dench; the JG is John Gielgud and the "arsehole" was the acclaimed Scottish poet Don Paterson, who said that Gielgud read Shakespeare's sonnets with "no understanding of what the poet means at all". The programme was *In Our Time*, which continues to excite the passions of at least one theatrical dame as well as more than two million weekly listeners. (I think Paterson had a point.)

It started in 1998 when Bragg was "gently fired" (his words) from Monday morning's *Start the Week* because he had become a working Labour peer. From the all-too-quick 30-minute two-handers the Radio 4 show has evolved into a three-act, three-guest format where its chief joy is brainy eclecticism — the death of stars one week, Dylan Thomas the next.



This Thursday marks the 1,000th edition and I feel slightly wary of telling the great man sitting opposite me, in a tiny meeting room at Broadcasting House, that I have listened to every one so far, either live or as a podcast; some, such as the sublime editions on TS Eliot's *Four Quartets* and Thomas Hardy's poetry, five or six times.

The 1,000th episode is on *The Seventh Seal*, the Ingmar Bergman film that dazzled the young Bragg (he benefited from free cinema tickets for advertising screenings in the family pub), but it was meant to be Einstein, the 999th, which aired last week. They "buggered up" the counting, Bragg says with a chuckle (although this is disputed by a production source, who insists it was carefully planned because Bragg is an "acknowledged expert" on the film, having written a book on it).

This straight-talking Cumbrian is not a man for anniversaries, I suppose. I remember, at about episode 940, one contributor remarking what an excellent achievement it was and getting slightly short shrift from the presenter, who insists on the programme's mantra being "never knowingly relevant". It is in our time, not of our time, you see, and it seems that Bragg needed a little persuading to mark the 1,000th. It will be acknowledged in "sentence one and two" before they get down to business, he promises. Is that modesty? "I don't feel like showing off," he replies.

Podcast listeners now get a post-broadcast fourth act where contributors say what they would have liked to talk more about. The move was prompted by a fellow peer, a trade unionist for whom the programme has filled in so many educational gaps. It certainly has for me.

Bragg admits that it took time to bed in ("like most programmes, we bumped along, and we didn't quite know where we were going, frankly"), but he knew he wanted just one subject, having noted that on *Start the Week* audiences seemed more interested in the contributions of academics. There is another big difference. *Start the Week* was known to some BBC wags as "Pluggers" (while *Midweek* was apparently nicknamed "Nutters"). *In Our Time* allows for no chat about "my latest book" and the contributors also have to teach the subject.

"They taught people like me, they taught people who didn't know much […] and when they leave the studio, they'd go back to universities that [are] teaching 18-year-olds." It sounds like a programme the young Bragg would have cherished?

"Yes, I would have really loved it and valued it, I really would."

The programme was broadcast live until July 2018 (William Morris was the last subject) but now it is recorded, which means any nerve-induced snafus (and plugs) are edited out. Management never suggests subjects or guests, Bragg assures me: they probably wouldn't dare. He is also an occasionally stern host. I remember one particularly testy programme on the Industrial Revolution when he argued forcefully with a female academic about the great man theory of history. It was a little "frosty" afterwards, he remembers.

His main role is to ask good questions, which he can do only by thorough preparation. He reads as much as he can, while a researcher interviews the guests and provides briefing notes. For listeners he is effectively us, the educated everyman asking for clarity in all the right places. The result is the BBC's most

> You're paying all this money, and not very many are watching

paid 27 times more than me

CHRIS MCANDREW FOR THE TIMES; DAVE M BENETT/GETTY IMAGES





Left: Melvyn Bragg and, above, with Judi Dench in 2011. Far left: Bragg in 1989

downloaded weekly podcast globally as well as one of the most popular for people under the age of 35.

Bragg is a passionate supporter of the BBC and believes it should fight back harder against its critics; but he acknowledges that the corporation doesn't always do itself favours, especially when it comes to star pay.

"I mean, let's say, for instance, that we pitch quite high on *In Our Time*. I get about the same audience as Gary Lineker. [*Match of the Day*'s live Saturday night audience is regularly just over two million, roughly the same as *In Our Time*'s weekly audience].Yeah, about the same number. It's worth thinking about. And the effort and energy that's put into [our show]."

Should he be paid the same as Lineker? I half-mean it as a joke, but Bragg is serious.

"He is paid 27 times more than I am. Something like that. It would be great if he was paid what I was paid. That would be fine. Which is perfectly all right. He's good, he's very good…talks very well, knows the game inside out, nothing wrong with that. And I'm not using this to get at him. I just think this is an example of the way the BBC is in a fix.

"Because that is, in my view, going to be one of the next points of attack. Look, you're paying all this money to these people, and not very many people are watching, really. And is that what you stand for? And I think it's an attack waiting to happen. I mean, some of the payments of people reading Autocues for the news. It's just ridiculous. And you think, really?"

What of the argument that the BBC needs to pay market rates to hold on to the talent? "Well, they are the market. So it's a circular argument."

Bragg recently stepped down from presenting *The South Bank Show* but he hasn't given up on television. He's working on an idea with the documentary-maker Nick Kent, possibly for Sky Arts. Does he have an idea if *The South Bank Show* will continue without him and who might take over if so? I noticed the *Imagine* presenter Alan Yentob in natty braces at the screening of Bragg's recent, dazzling Sky Arts films about David Hockney. Does he want the gig?

"Yeah, well he lives in hope," Bragg says with a smile, slightly under his breath. "I honestly have not the slightest idea what they're going to do." He says he likes *Imagine*, seen by many as the BBC's answer to *The South Bank Show*, and worries that the BBC may be cutting back on the show.

> **Judi Dench wrote a card to ask him who criticised John Gielgud**

"I don't know what Alan's future's going to be," he says, adding that he didn't want to raise *Imagine*'s future with Yentob at the Hockney screening because he thought it might be "a bit of a tender subject".

Bragg turns 84 in October and knows his physical limits.

"I've had a very, very, very, bad two and a half years, at one stage critical," he says. "And I haven't talked about it. I'm talking to you about it. But there have been some serious moments — really, really critical moments. And we seem to have got through them all."

He seems well now, I say.

"Well, I don't think I'll ever get back to what it was. I mean, I've lost over two stones for instance. It's all right. I mean, I'm fine. The cancers have retreated. One or two things are still being treated. One or two things won't get better. But I'm very lucky. I try to go for a walk every day."

He has a converted barn in his beloved Cumbria. "One of my ambitions is in a year or two to be able to get at one or two of the fells again."

Even with his voice slightly fainter these days, he feels lucky.

"Almost from the day I joined the BBC I just thought, 'They're paying me for doing this?' It is such a blessing. I really like this job. I don't like it a little bit. I really like it."

Long may he continue.

The 1,000th edition of *In Our Time* airs on Radio 4 on Thursday at 9.02am

The lowdown
Leo DiCaprio's new trainers



Name an unlikely pairing!

Do I have to? How about Prince William and Cher?

Intriguing, but no. Try again.

Where is this going? Er, Jordan Peterson and Miss Piggy?

Match made in heaven! Alas, no.

Who are you talking about, then?

Leonardo DiCaprio and James Blunt!

The Oscar-winner who dates women under 25 and the writer of insipid but unstoppably infectious ballads?

The very ones. They are in cahoots, about shoes. Leo has invested more than £3.5 million in a British company called Løci that makes vegan trainers from recycled bottles and rubber.

How nice for him.

Quite. And it turns out Blunt has invested in the company as well. So now, as an insider told The Sun, he "is technically in business with Leo. It's random but a cool connection."

The coolest. How did this come about and why now?

Well, Leo is an environmentalist.

Doesn't he take quite a few private jets and hang out on superyachts?

People are made up of contradictions. He loves the planet.

Of course, don't mind me.

Anyway, this all happened because of Princess Eugenie. She's a mutual friend and persuaded Leo to support Løci after being introduced to it by Blunt's wife, Sofia. Harry and Meghan like Løcis too, thanks to Euge.

Pray, tell: how much does a pair of these shoes cost?

About £180.

Maybe I'll put them on my Christmas list.



Also, I have a great idea for a promo video. Picture this: Leo strutting down the runway, pointing to his snazzy new sneakers, while Blunt sings *You're Beautiful* with tears running down his face.

How inspiring.

Blanca Schofield

‘I don’t see it as stealing, more like

Avocados put through the self-checkout as apples, towels stolen from the gym… not all petty theft is due to the cost of living crisis, three writers confess

It started by accident. No really, m’lud, it did. It wasn’t until later that week, when it happened again, that I became inexorably drawn into a life of crime. The first time I was buying a bread roll in Waitrose. In the approximately three seconds I’d allotted to the task at self-checkout on the way into work, I genuinely couldn’t see a picture that matched my roll. So I stabbed at the small wholemeal roll for 50p, thought it was probably wrong, and also thought, “Sod it, close enough,” and left. Later that week, buying the same roll — I’m a creature of habit — I realised it was 90p, not 50p. It was then I made the deliberate choice to pay 50p, not 90p.

This isn’t about the cost of living. I am aware that shoplifting is on the rise for myriad reasons; last week the Co-op started putting empty Ferrero Rocher packets on shelves to try to deter thieves while M&S has been displaying only one steak at a time. The boss of John Lewis, Sharon White, has called it an “epidemic”. My pilfering is something different. I could afford to pay that extra 40p but that’s not the point.

A few weeks after the bread roll incident, I was buying lunch in Itsu for



me and a colleague. “Get lots of extra soy sauce, wasabi and ginger,” she said, and I complained that they charge for them now. She looked at me as if I was stupid. “You don’t *pay* for them,” she said. “Nobody pays for extra soy sauce in Itsu. You just take it. Put it in the bag with your chopsticks and napkins.” So I did. And nobody stopped me. I now have a vast stockpile of ginger, wasabi and soy sauce in my desk drawer in case I ever lose my nerve.

I’m no Winona Ryder, who was convicted of shoplifting after stealing $5,500 worth of designer clothes from Saks Fifth Avenue in Beverly Hills in 2001. I’m not even on a par with the chef Antony Worrall Thompson, who was caught nicking cheese and wine from a Tesco in Henley-on-Thames in 2012.

I have standards, of course I do. I’m a highly educated and self-respecting shoplifter. I stick to rolls and condiments, though I guard against the day that increased confidence leads to theft inflation and I find myself palming a fillet steak into my handbag. I don’t yet check the 800-thread-count Egyptian cotton bed linen in John Lewis for CCTV coverage and security alarms, though I should have done before I stole the towels from my gym, because it turns out they have little discs hidden in the hem. But nothing happened, no alarms went off and, I thought smugly to myself, it can’t put CCTV in the changing rooms, can it? So I’ve stopped buying body lotion, I nick

> Nobody pays for soy sauce at Itsu — taking it won’t hurt them

it from the gym instead. And I’ve been steadily replacing all my tired, crispy towels with its fluffy white ones. It isn’t theft, it’s a noble act of revenge: it refused to honour three guest passes that had expired a couple of days before and tried to charge me £40 for a new one.

So far I’ve only defrauded the big players like Waitrose, Itsu and the gym. I wouldn’t dream of taking something from a little indie retailer that will no doubt be feeling the pinch. But Itsu is owned by Julian Metcalfe, who has featured on The Sunday Times Rich List, is a collector of contemporary art and has previously been the owner of a yacht. He isn’t going under if I don’t pay 5p extra for wasabi, is he?

And Waitrose isn’t going under because I paid 50p for a 90p roll. And if it actually does hurt its bottom line, well, it shouldn’t have sacked all the people who worked on the tills, should it?

My top tip is that deniability could be helpful. Brown rolls all look the same if you squint. I’m not taking a side of smoked salmon and putting it through as fishfingers. It’s more, “Oh dear, I didn’t realise I still had a towel slung round my neck.” See what I mean? It helps that I don’t look like a shoplifter. I know this because I bought and paid for a ready meal and a pint of milk at my local M&S last night and just carried them out, without a bag. I didn’t even take the receipt. “I haven’t nicked them, honest!” I said cheerfully to the security guy at the door, “I really did pay for them!” And as I said it I thought, “But next time, who knows?” He smiled and said, “Have a great night,” and I thanked him and walked out into the sunshine a free woman. For now.



I’ve decided it’s restorative justice for sloppy service

I have been watching recent footage of gangs shoplifting on social media with dismay. Young men mostly, running out of shops with piles of clothes, shoes or food.

“You can’t talk, you steal all the time,” my girlfriend reminded me. And that made me consider: what exactly is stealing? As a rule of thumb I’d say if you’re engaged in hand-to-hand combat with a security guard while an alarm sounds you are stealing. But what I do is different. For some time now I have been waging a low-level war against what I see as unfair retail practices. I see it more as “levelling up” and it all started when I bought a selection of M&S Japanese-style barbecue pork wraps for my children to eat on a long car journey. When they chose their wraps each looked like a substantial 20cm-long product, but they turned out to be two small halves (the label promising “a tangy tonkatsu ketchup and crunchy Asian-style slaw” hid a yawning gap between the minuscule sections). To me that is stealing, and I endured the second half of our drive to Scotland to the refrains of “I’m still hungry” and “Most of it was just boring wrap”.

I decided that two can play at that game. Whenever shopping for vegetables I began putting shallots through the self-checkout as bog-standard onions. And when I was paying for my bananas and it asked me how many I had, I’d put five instead of six. I only intended to do it until I’d avenged the wrap, but I’ve found devising my own pricing structure for supermarket produce rather addictive.

And I’m by no means alone. I know some seasoned operators who will transfer the yellow discount sticker from a mouldy old pork pie to a pristine packet of smoked salmon (you have to be careful, though, because there’s a secondary barcode you have to move as well). One middle-class thief I know will surreptitiously dent cans of her favourite beer, then ask staff for a discount, but for me that’s going too

> One middle-class thief dents beer cans, then asks for a discount

far. Sitting in the manager’s office trying to explain away CCTV footage of oneself hitting a can of beer against supermarket shelves or one’s forehead is not something I think I could do convincingly.

Supermarkets aren’t the only place where I’ve felt the need to right wrongs. While on holiday in Morocco I once asked the hotel staff if the salad was washed with tap water or bottled water. I had been warned on no account to drink the tap water or eat

levelling up'

COVER AND BELOW: GETTY IMAGES



anything washed in it. They assured me they would wash my salad with bottled water, but the next morning I woke at 2am violently ill and the last three days of my holiday were ruined with a stomach bug. All week I had admired the little fruit bowl on a table by the lifts and had intended to ask at reception where I could buy one. Between bouts of vomiting I decided this would become the price the hotel would have to pay for poisoning me. Once I was up and about again, it went straight into my suitcase. Of course I know it is wrong. But for me there was a poetic justice in restoring my health with five-a-day from my beautiful new bowl.

I have decided that "stealing" means "restorative justice for sloppy service". Once, on my girlfriend's birthday, we endured a very shoddy meal at a renowned gastropub. The food was OK but the staff were surly and disengaged. When my loved one asked what pudding the young waitress would recommend, she answered: "You'll know better than me — I can't afford to eat here."

Objectively I'm sure that was true. But on a birthday one expects staff to set aside personal socioeconomic grudges and enter the spirit of things. Would it really have been so hard for her to say, "I hear the crème brûlée is to die for"? No matter, when our server's back was turned, into my girlfriend's bag went the rather beautiful wine opener by Le Creuset. I'm also pretty sure the shabby chic candlestick we keep on the piano is from their lavatory.

Overpriced nuts? No way I'll pay

The more absurd the prices, the more inclined I am to help myself. If I happen to be staying in the Cotswolds, for example, and my hosts insist on a trip to an upmarket farm shop, I freely help myself to the nuts and dried fruit, because I know I am paying a premium for everything else. I do it in public; if it wants me to pay, it should pay someone to man the section.

The more a venue overcharges, the more likely I am to pilfer. It's called moral disengagement and basically goes, "I know I'm being ripped off so I'm going to eat all the cheese you laid out for the tasting, but I won't buy any cheese because you grossly overcharge for what is not caviar. I will buy a coffee, though, seems fair enough."

It's not indiscriminate stealing, there is a certain etiquette to it. I know plenty of people who enter their avocados as apples at the self-checkout at Tesco so that they are cheaper. Their outrage is with Tesco, which is too mean to pay for humans to run the tills.

I am much more likely to steal from a five-star hotel if the service was bad. I take items (bathrobes, toiletries) from trolleys on another floor. Or I'll call housekeeping and ask for more soap. It's not like they're going to say no. If it gave me a less than perfect room, why not take what I'm owed?

Why McConaughey's 9-day marriage rule is a good one

The Hollywood actor and his wife don't spend any longer than that apart — Ben Rowell knows why

Matthew McConaughey grew emotional while talking about his family at an event at the weekend. He said he hoped his children would look upon him in years to come as their best friend, and added that he and his wife, the model and designer Camila Alves, hadn't spent more than nine days apart in the entirety of their marriage (11 years). That got a mixed response at our breakfast table.

My wife gently teared up with McConaughey.

"But did he mean nine days in total or in a row?" I inquired. "Because …?"

Because I wonder: how impressive is it really that the *Dallas Buyers Club* star (whom I do actually have a man-crush on) has only missed nine days with his wife? What with private jets and such these days, and the couple having three young children, of course you would fly back to them at every opportunity, or have them flown to you, or insist that the whole production is moved close to home. The only comparable situation I've known among friends involved a couple of actors, one of whom flew back to London from New York every Friday. Was it uxoriousness or luxuriousness? Who knows?

> "I would embrace the solitude while also resenting my wife's absence

That said, I think it's wise to limit the time apart. My own, much less glamorous marriage has suffered periods in which my wife travelled extensively, and would be absent for up to 14 days twice a year. When I say she was a fashion editor and that this was for the shows in New York, Milan and Paris, spring and autumn, and that she was flying first-class, staying in five-star hotels and looking at dresses, I hope you will sympathise with me, not her. She might, and did, argue that my view was a misunderstanding of the events, which are really just trade shows and just as boring as those in any industry, and did I realise how soul-destroying it was talking to fashion people all day for two weeks, twice a year? Which I would treat with the sorrowful shake of the head her argument deserved.



The actor Matthew McConaughey and his wife, Camila Alves

As if reading my mind, my wife now looks up from a video of dogs singing, or whatever, and wonders: "Do you remember when I used to travel for the shows?"

Yes, I do.

"And how you were when I got back? There would always be tension for a day. You would be taut and resentful for at least 24 hours."

Hmm, it does kind of ring a bell. Probably it was a hangover from hanging out with all my bachelor buddies. At worst it was staying in the pub for a fourth pint with a mate. But mainly I would have been at home, being domestic and orderly, maybe watching sport but also getting on with projects: DIY, cookery, homely but manly stuff. That is how boring I am. Actually I recall completely embracing the solitude while also resenting my wife's absence, which is clearly to my discredit.

Nor would I even enjoy our nightly chats, because how on earth do you bridge the gap between the dynamic of her partying with Michael Stipe in New York and me announcing that I'd fixed the washing machine?

"There was a rustling in the bin today," I would say, "and it was a mouse!"

"I've just told that to [people on the front row] and they're all screaming with laughter!"

Truly it wouldn't matter if she had been at a widget trade fair in Barnsley, I'd still believe she was having more fun. And this is the perennial problem: on one side, irritable resentment; on the other, a longing for home.

Reunions never quite work as well as you expect. In our household my wife would want to flop on the sofa with baked beans on toast, while I would want to go out and do something. In the case of one of my wife's colleagues, she got back from Paris late one night and was woken the next morning by the police, who had found her two kids (aged six and four) crossing a main road, wearing backpacks, having decided to leave home in protest at her continued absence.

McConaughey is clearly wise never to stay away too long. Absence may make the heart grow harder.

health

What to do if you can't bear the sound of your partner's breathing

For one in five people, hearing particular noises elicits an extreme reaction. The clinical psychologist Dr Jane Gregory, who is affected by the problem herself, has written a self-help guide for fellow sufferers. By Anna Maxted

None of us loves to hear a person smacking their chops or clearing gunk from their throat, but for Dr Jane Gregory such noises feel intolerable and enraging. Prior to our Zoom chat, the clinical psychologist at the University of Oxford stuffed an old pillow up the chimney to block out the sounds of the pigeons on the roof.

Until about 20 years ago, misophonia — or selective sound sensitivity syndrome — was unheard of yet one in five of us in the UK are thought to have it. "There are people who are disrupted in their lives, experience distress every day and have a lot of functional impairment as a result of it," Gregory, 43, says. Others have it sub-clinically, where certain sounds provoke extreme reactions but don't disrupt their life. Those affected are rarely taken seriously.

Part of the problem, she explains, is that 85 per cent of people feel irritation and disgust at the sound of loud eating, so they think they get it — like presuming to understand what ADHD feels like because you occasionally have trouble focusing.

With the misophonic population, the brain perceives such sounds as a threat, prompting a fight or flight response. "The most common reaction is anger, or panic."

The anger can feel overwhelming. In *Sounds Like Misophonia*, the book Gregory has just completed on the subject, she writes: "If you have thought about wanting to shove a fork through someone's face…"

Another issue is that traits of misophonia can look like "quirks of personality" or indeed, as Gregory says, "someone being a bit weird". When she was ten, she snatched a doughnut being chomped by her twin brother and threw it in the bin. Her "gentle family" were shocked, and she felt ashamed.

Listening to scenes from her life — stepping outside at night to put a towel down to quieten the drips from a drainpipe, trying to teach her children to eat quietly without upsetting them — I feel exhausted for her. She grew up in a beach town in Australia and moved to the UK in 2010 after falling in love with an Englishman, the comedian Steve Hall. The first three years of their relationship were long-distance. It wasn't until they moved in together that Gregory made a terrible discovery. "I said to him, 'Have you always breathed this loudly?'"

She couldn't believe she hadn't noticed. "I would have considered that a deal-breaker," she says. "I didn't think that I could be with someone who breathed loudly and ate loudly, and he did both."

Impressively, love got them through. Hall agreed that if the room was quiet, he wouldn't sit too close. "If we were eating, sometimes it was better for him to sit next to me so I couldn't see the eating process, and sometimes it was better for him to sit opposite me so I couldn't hear it," she says.

Gregory started researching misophonia while working at the Maudsley Hospital in London, treating patients with OCD. She saw some overlapping patterns in the two conditions. "We started to offer treatment for misophonia in our clinic, and people did quite well." She's now continuing her work in Oxford, and the book is for those who don't necessarily need therapy but would benefit from the information.

Gregory has made progress herself, but some noises still trigger intense feelings. "Chewing sounds is a very big one, any audible breathing, any heavy, nasal, open-mouthed breathing,



Dr Jane Gregory





A Week in Andalucia

Departures | November 2023 to November 2024

This holiday gives you the chance to unwind and soak up the sun whilst discovering the best of Andalucía. From your 4-star hotel, enjoy trips to explore the cities of Cordoba, Seville and Granada, home of the stunning Alhambra Palace. Step inside and marvel at the grand halls, courtyards, and fountains, before stepping outside to the impressive Generalife Gardens. There's also the choice to visit cliff-top Ronda and cosmopolitan Malaga, or if you prefer you can simply relax at the hotel.

Price Includes

- Return flights from London, overseas transfers, other transportation and porterage
- Seven nights in a four-star hotel
- Seven breakfasts, one lunch, seven dinners and welcome drink
- Services of a Travelsphere Holiday Director
- Sightseeing in Cordoba
- Explore Andalucia's regional capital, Seville, and enjoy a light lunch in one of the fine tapas bars
- Granada tour and the Alhambra Palace

Prices correct at time of print. Prices shown are based on twin occupancy of a double or twin bedded room with private facilities and economy flights. Single occupancy supplements will apply. All holidays are subject to availability. Images used in conjunction with Travelsphere. Operated by and subject to the booking conditions of Travelsphere, ABTA Y6412, ATOL 11266 a company wholly independent of News UK. Discount applies to selected holidays. New bookings only. visit website for full terms & conditions

EIGHT DAYS FROM
£1,249*
per person

Our Trusted Partner
travelsphere
Holiday of a lifetime, every time.

CALL TODAY ON
0808 304 7537
thetimes.co.uk/ts-andalucia
QUOTE TIMES

ABTA Travel with confidence


GETTY IMAGES

repetitive cough or throat-clearing kind of sound bothers me.

"Outside human noises — ticking clocks. I can't have a ticking clock where I'm trying to work. In my old NHS job everyone knew which office I was in because I would leave the clock outside the door. It would feel like the clock was intrusive, also, counting down the time, like, you've only got seconds left."

Is misophonia something you're born with? Gregory writes that meerkat communities have "super-guards" — individuals more alert to sounds of potential danger than the rest of the group. "It makes sense that humans have super-guards too," she says.

> It's like the clock is counting down — you've only got seconds left

"Maybe your brain doesn't tune out sounds as quickly as other people and sometimes not at all." She'd be invaluable in a zombie apocalypse. "I am programmed not to ignore the sound of heavy breathing, dragging feet…" For those affected, who almost invariably feel bad about themselves, "it's helpful to think of the aspects that predispose us to misophonia as functional".

As Gregory says, the meerkat theory suggests a person can be susceptible to the condition. "But context and experience and personality go on to shape whether that becomes misophonia." There's a psychological aspect to it too. It's not just the sounds making people feel murderous and scared they'll lose control if they can't escape this aural torture (commonly, eating, breathing, nasal sounds and — surprise contender — the "k" sound). It's who's making it.

There's a worrying line in the book — "there might be someone in your life who will trigger you no matter what sound they are making". Gregory says: "When they test people listening to the exact same audio but in one video it's a person eating, in one video it's a puppy eating, the reaction to the person eating is much more intense. So we know that context plays a role. It's not just the sound itself."

One reason a misophone might feel unbothered as a puppy guzzles its food but "explosive anger" at the human is they know the puppy isn't being inconsiderate. With a person, says Gregory, rage and panic arise because you feel the social contract is being brazenly contravened. "I am incredibly self-conscious about my own eating sounds in case it bothers other people," she says. (It can worsen resentment, so she might encourage patients to "loosen up" about this.)

It's why misophones can experience their most intense reaction both with "a relationship with existing conflict, and a relationship where it's really important that there is no conflict", Gregory says. And, typically, "you feel there's something wrong with you for reacting that way, you feel there's something wrong with other people for behaving that way".

An unpleasant experience can contribute to the condition developing — say, if the indicator was ticking when a vehicle hit your car, "understandably you'll be listening out for that sound because your brain has connected that to a traumatic event", Gregory says.

Her intolerance of pigeon sounds stems from childhood, when she'd retreat to her bedroom for some peace (she has three siblings) and the birds

> Your brain's made this association with sounds and a sense of threat

would "uoo-uoo" outside her window. It felt intrusive and would reduce her to tears. Thanks to devising strategies informed by cognitive behavioural therapy to help her patients and herself, she has less intense reactions to the noises that plague her. Often, misophones cope by avoiding people. However, it's only by engaging with those sounds that they can change their relationship with them.

She says: "Your brain has made this association with sounds and a sense of threat or violation or fear of being overwhelmed, and if you can experience those sounds in a situation where there is no threat, there is no violation, then your brain can rewire itself not to feel so threatened or overwhelmed.

"It doesn't mean they won't be annoying but you won't get that flight or fight reaction." Our brain learns faster if something is novel, surprising or funny, she adds, and her exercises include those principles.

You might lessen the intensity of your reaction to your cold-ridden colleague by listening to (urgh) a recording of a blocked nose on YouTube, repeatedly, on double speed, for example, "so you're in control of the sound". Or you might imagine it as something else, so your co-worker gulping water might become a babbling brook.

Gregory once imagined a loud repeat yawner in a meeting was Chewbacca trying to be understood. One of her favourites is to imagine you're a film director, and when your friend repeatedly sniffs you create an amusing backstory as to why this character sniffs.

It opens you to the possibility that there's a less infuriating reason fuelling their habit (even if there isn't), she says — "it gives your mind a job to do while listening to the sound so there's not this hyper-focus". And if you can amuse, surprise or entertain yourself with your theory, "it helps your brain to learn that it's not as threatening as you feel it is". And happily, if your issue is eating sounds, you can — as Gregory now does — enjoy your family meals to music.

Sounds Like Misophonia **by Dr Jane Gregory (Bloomsbury £15.99). To order a copy go to timesbookshop.co.uk or call 020 3176 2935. Special discount available for Times+ members**

Ask the experts

What can I do about knee pain?

Dr Matthew Stride, sports medicine consultant

To reduce the risk of a knee injury it is important to gradually build up the intensity of activities. Further exertions that involve rotational movement and sudden changes of direction are higher risk, and warming up with additional muscle activation exercises, especially of the gluteus muscles, is advised.

RICE is a technique that can be used initially to deal with mild discomfort. The abbreviation stands for rest, ice, compression, elevation. Rest: allow your knee to rest to avoid further irritation. Reducing the load by lessening the number of steps you take can help. Ice: apply ice to the affected area for 15-20 minutes every few hours to reduce swelling and inflammation. Compression: use a brace or bandage for support and to minimise swelling. Elevation: elevate your leg to reduce swelling, especially when resting, keeping the knee as straight as possible. If you are diagnosed with osteoarthritis, consider gentle exercises such as swimming or cycling, and resistance-based exercises that have been clinically proven to strengthen the muscles around the joint.



Damian Clark, consultant orthopaedic surgeon

Optimise lifestyle factors. Four times your body weight goes through your kneecap when you walk. Low-impact exercises such as cycling, swimming and rowing are likely to be kinder than football or tennis. Painkillers, injections, knee braces and muscle-strengthening programmes can all be helpful, but the efficacy varies. If a treatment doesn't work, ditch it and try something else. But beware of fake treatments — a multitude of medications and supplements (falsely) claim to modify arthritis progression. Surgeons offer more than total knee replacements. There are other evidence-based procedures that can help with arthritis, including robotic-assisted partial or total replacement, various knee injections and osteotomy surgery.

Yuvraj Agrawal, consultant orthopaedic surgeon

Being overweight or obese increases stress on the knees, even during daily activities such as walking and going up and down the stairs. Regular exercises for flexibility and strength can prevent injuries and help with rehabilitation. However, should the symptoms persist or worsen, a review by a healthcare professional is recommended. After exhausting non-operative options, patients may consider a joint replacement procedure.

Salomé Tucker

health

GETTY IMAGES



Are you getting enough iron?

With people's intake of the mineral on the decline, Peta Bee asks experts how critical it is to our health

Described by the World Health Organisation as a global public health problem and "the most common and widespread nutritional disorder in the world", iron deficiency anaemia is on the rise.

A recent research letter published in The Journal of the American Medical Association warned that 38.6 per cent of females aged 12 to 20 in the US are iron deficient, while the most recent figures from the UK's National Diet and Nutrition Survey reveal that 49 per cent of girls aged 11 to 18 and 25 per cent of women aged 19 to 64 have a low iron intake — the most frequent cause of iron deficiency anaemia.

"Evidence of both iron deficiency anaemia and low iron stores has been an issue for a number of years," the dietician Dr Linia Patel says. "Iron is a mineral that is critical for our health."

Iron's main role is enabling red blood cells to ferry oxygen around the body. Without enough, the capacity of blood to carry oxygen is reduced. "This can make you breathless and exhausted, get headaches and feel nauseous," says Rhiannon Lambert, dietician and the author of *The Science of Nutrition*. "But iron has many other jobs, such as supporting brain and immune function, both of which can be affected when levels are low."

Symptoms of low iron include poor appetite and trouble exercising or concentrating, but these are often either ignored or mistaken for routine fatigue.

How much iron do we need?

The UK government recommends that men of all ages and women aged 50 to 64 need 8.7mg of iron a day; for women aged 19 to 50 it is 14.8mg a day. But certain medical conditions can affect iron absorption, which means individual requirements vary.

"People with coeliac disease and inflammatory bowel disease can have impaired iron absorption issues," Patel says. "And women who menstruate heavily or who are pregnant are sometimes prone to levels dropping." Intense and prolonged endurance exercise can also be problematic.

"Long-distance training or gruelling workouts can cause iron to be leached through the gastrointestinal tract as activity draws blood away from the gut," Patel says. "This can reduce blood levels of iron over time."

What are the best food sources of iron?

Of the two types of dietary iron — haem and non-haem — it is the haem iron in meat, fish and poultry that is better absorbed by the body. Liver, red meat, eggs and seafood are all sources of haem iron. Good sources of plant non-haem iron include beans, lentils, green vegetables, hazelnuts, dried fruit, olives, wholegrains, leafy green veg, pumpkin seeds, tofu and dried apricots. "Maximise your intake by increasing the variety of food sources containing iron," Patel says.

Can you get enough iron from a plant-based diet?

Vegetarians and vegans, particularly if they are premenopausal females, are more prone to iron-deficiency anaemia, as a study in the journal Nutrients showed last year. And while you can get sufficient iron from non-animal sources, you will need to plan more carefully. "Non-haem, or plant, sources of iron are not absorbed as well as haem, or animal, sources," the dietician Bahee Van de Bor says. "So your basic iron requirements might be slightly higher than average recommendations."

Do any foods block absorption?

Cheese, yoghurt, cow's milk and other calcium-rich foods can inhibit the absorption of non-haem iron.

"It's best not to take calcium foods or supplements at the same time as meals higher in iron or when you pop an iron supplement," says Alex Ruani, a researcher in nutrition science at University College London and chief science educator at the Health Sciences Academy. "Spinach contains calcium, so not all of the iron in the vegetable is absorbed."

Tannins present in tea and coffee also bind to minerals such as iron and inhibit the body's ability to absorb them, although the effects are likely to be minimal unless you are a heavy consumer of either drink. "To be on the safe side," Ruani says, "take your last cup of tea or coffee at least an hour before or a couple of hours after eating so the opposing compounds don't mix in your stomach."

> **Red-flag signs include cold hands and feet, pale skin and brittle nails**

How do you know if you are low on iron?

If your iron levels are only slightly low, you may not experience any symptoms other than feeling a bit more tired or out of breath than usual. At more risky levels, there are some red-flag signs. "These include muscle weakness, debilitating shortness of breath, cold hands and feet, brittle nails, pale skin and difficulty concentrating," Ruani says. "But the only sure way to find out if iron levels are suboptimal is through a blood test from your GP."

About 70 per cent of your body's iron is found in red blood cells, or haemoglobin, and a blood test will determine if haemoglobin levels are below the normal range of 130-170g per litre for men and 120-150g per litre for women. "If iron deficiency anaemia is diagnosed, your GP will prescribe up to 200mg of ferrous sulphate," Ruani says. "But this is a high dose that can cause side-effects and you will be carefully monitored with National Institute for Health and Care Excellence guidelines suggesting adjustments for people who do not tolerate it well." Taking prescribed high-dose iron capsules with or after food can make them more tolerable but can cut absorption of iron in half.

Should I take a supplement?

An iron supplement is not necessary unless your GP has confirmed that you need one following a blood test. However, Ruani says, "there's no harm in supplementing with a 25-50mg daily iron supplement for a couple of weeks while you focus on ramping up the iron-rich foods you eat".

It's still best to speak to a GP or dietician and you shouldn't take a supplement long term without medical advice. "Depending on the supplement type and your body's tolerance for it, a dose exceeding 50mg day could lead to symptoms such as nausea and gastrointestinal discomfort," Ruani says. "And prolonged or high-dose iron intakes can result in complications such as non-alcoholic fatty liver disease over time." Iron toxicity is a risk when doses exceed 3-6mg per kg of body weight per day, and while that level of intake is unusual, keep an eye on iron intake from all sources, including fortified foods, multivitamins and energy drinks, to make sure you are not getting more than you need.

Is gentle iron an option?

According to the NHS, some of the less desirable side-effects of iron supplementation include sickness or heartburn, constipation, diarrhoea and other gastrointestinal issues. "Iron is a tricky supplement as it can cause some intestinal inflammation and also changes to the gut microbiota, which can reduce amounts of the protective bacteria species," Patel says. "The higher doses required to correct low levels are linked to more symptoms and to poor gut health in general." Gentle iron sources such as liquid Spatone (£25 for three months' supply from boots.com), which can be added to drinks, or Solgar's Gentle Iron (£12.99 for 90 20mg capsules, hollandandbarrett.com) might be worth trying. "Gentle iron products tend to contain iron bisglycinate, which is less harsh on the stomach," Ruani says. "But they should only be taken temporarily and ideally after discussion with a GP or doctor."

Should iron and vitamin C be consumed at the same time?

For decades we were advised to wash down an iron supplement with a glass of vitamin C-rich orange juice or a vitamin C supplement, as it was believed the vitamin created an acidic environment in the gut that helped to dissolve iron for optimal absorption. That advice is no longer given by many GPs, with a clinical trial of 440 adults with iron deficiency anaemia, published in The Journal of the American Medical Association, showing there is no benefit in taking vitamin C alongside iron tablets. "One way you can improve absorption of iron supplements is to take them on an empty stomach one hour before a meal or two hours after it," the nutritionist and gut specialist Eli Brecher says.

Are probiotic foods helpful?

Surprisingly, eating more pickles, kimchi, kombucha and kefir, all of which are rich in probiotics, might help your body to make better use of iron. "Some probiotics strains, including *Lactobacillus acidophilus* and *Bifidobacterium longum*, might enhance the absorption of iron from food," Brecher says. "They work by helping to transport iron oxide nanoparticles into the cells lining the intestine, so are worth considering."





Forget Naples. The world's best pizza is made in Chiswick

Not even the best pizzaiolos in his native Italy could match Michele Pascarella's slices at the 50 Top Pizza awards. What's his secret, asks Giulia Crouch

Naples may be the home of pizza but it is not home to the world's greatest pizza chef — you'll find him on a sleepy street in west London.

Michele Pascarella, owner of the pizzeria Napoli on the Road (which now has two branches, one in Chiswick and the other in neighbouring Richmond), was last week crowned global pizza-maker of the year at the prestigious 50 Top Pizza World 2023 awards — "the Michelin guide of the pizza world", he says.

The 31-year-old, who moved to London from Caserta, a city in southern Italy, in 2011, was up against thousands of chefs from around the world, including famous and revered pizzaiolos from Italy and the best pie-slingers New York has to offer. He was assessed in a series of undercover visits by judges who, upon giving him the accolade, described him as a "pioneer of contemporary pizza".

"I was speechless," he says when I meet him at his Richmond restaurant, which, alongside the Chiswick one, is fully booked for the next two weeks and is packed full of customers at 4.30pm on a Sunday. "I didn't expect it at all and it's been crazy busy since. I've had to turn away something like 2,000 people since the news broke. I've had people in Miami and San Francisco ringing up to book a table. I'm getting 20 calls every minute."

He even had a call last Friday saying that a member of the Qatari royal family wanted to eat his pizza and could he make two tables available, one for him and one for his security team.

I too wanted to eat it. My Italian nonna came from Campania, only 25 miles away from Pascarella's home town, so I like to think I know a thing or two about what makes a good pizza — I've certainly eaten enough of them. I put in an order for my favourite and what is, in my opinion, the best way to test quality: a margherita. While different flavours can be fun, I think if a pizza is truly good, that is all you need.

While I wait for my pizza I ask Pascarella where it all began. "I started working in a kitchen when I was 11 — that kind of thing is allowed in the south of Italy," he says with a laugh. He got a job as a pot washer in a local pizzeria, Grano Cotto, and at the end of a shift his boss gave him a challenge — to make his first pizza. There was one condition, however: "If I burnt it, I wouldn't eat," he says. He was making his own dinner. "It didn't come out perfect, of course, but it was a beautiful moment because I was really excited. It was emotional." It sparked in him a love of pizza and a desire to become a master in making it. "I began to study," he says. "I read loads of books about pizza and practised making it every day."

After working in restaurants in Italy, Pascarella moved to the UK with the dream of opening his own pizzeria. "The pizza offering wasn't as good back then as it is now. I wanted to open somewhere to show people real, proper pizza." His first foray was a street food truck in 2016 that was so popular he was able to open his first permanent restaurant in 2019 in Chiswick, where he brought "contemporary" pizza to the scene.



Michele Pascarella. Top: the pizza at his restaurant Napoli on the Road

> "I wanted to open somewhere to show people real, proper pizza

"The difference between my pizza and the traditional pizza of Naples is firstly the size," he explains. "Theirs is very thin and big with a thin crust whereas my pizzas are smaller with a higher, airier crust and a less restricted choice of toppings."

Perusing the menu I do spot some toppings that would raise eyebrows among the Naples traditionalists. At traditional pizzerias in the city, the options are normally marinara, margherita and one with a little salami, but at Pascarella's joint the menu is highly creative and seasonal. There's the fillet tartare (£18.95), a pizza with parmesan fondue, fior di latte cheese, mixed baby salad leaves, crushed hazelnuts, Amalfi lemon olive oil and finely cut raw steak. "Moving to the UK gave me the opportunity to express myself in terms of flavours," Pascarella says.

Another pizza caught my eye: the assoluto di carciofi (£14.95), with cream of Jerusalem artichokes, smoked mozzarella, black olive powder, grilled artichokes and parsley.

The ingredients are sourced from Italy, he says. "I get my cheese, especially my buffalo mozzarella, from Caserta. I think a lot of people try to skimp on ingredients. Here we believe pizza is a great thing so we can put whatever we want on it." He then adds a caveat. "It's a cliché but of course I don't like pineapple on pizza. I don't really like fruit on pizza in general unless maybe some caramelised figs with salty Parma ham."

How about chicken, I ask, a pizza topping I consider to be deeply wrong and weird.

"I eat chicken on a separate plate," he says. "I think it's a bit wrong too. As for other things, I love to experiment and I think it's one of the reasons customers love it here. They're curious to see what's on the menu next."

Pascarella also creates his dough a little differently. Instead of using one type of flour, he uses a blend, preparing it with a "starter" as you would sourdough. It has more fibre than a traditional pizza, and because there is less refined flour, it will give you less of a blood sugar spike, he says.

But what's the secret? How do you see off the competition to become the best pizza chef on the planet?

"There's no secret, it's just passion," he says. "You need to do what you like and what is good for customers."

Speaking of which, I'm ready for my margherita (£10.95). It arrives glistening with big melted blotches of buffalo mozzarella and a generous drizzle of golden-green olive oil. The tomato sauce is a perfect light red and the wilted basil on the top brings the most tempting aroma. I take a quarter, fold it in half and take a bite. The dough is soft and light with a puffy, squidgy crust, the tomato sauce is nicely balanced between sweet and acidic and the cheese is rich, tangy and creamy.

It's the best pizza I've eaten in some time, and I say that having just returned from Naples, but Italy will have to take my word for it, as Pascarella has no plans to return home any time soon. "I don't want to move back to Italy," he says. "I love London."

times2

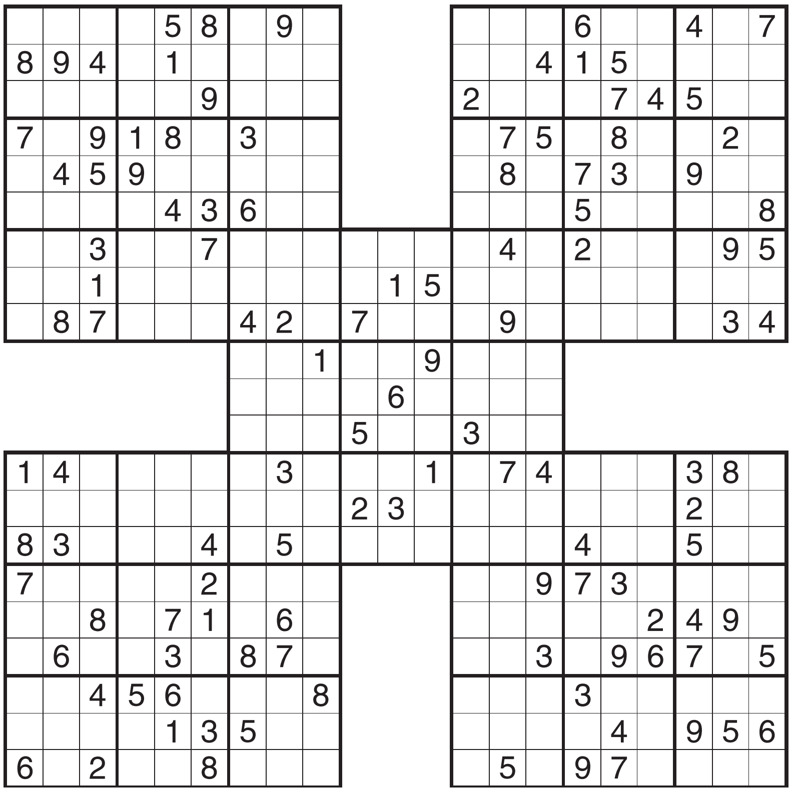
Your weekday brain boost

More puzzles
Pages 14-16

Every day, Monday to Thursday, a page of extra puzzles to give your brain an extended workout

Samurai medium

Fill each grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Where the puzzles overlap, the rows and columns do not go beyond their usual length.

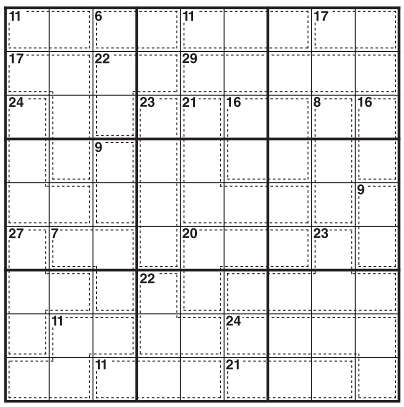


Sudoku fiendish

4	5					6	9	
1				9	6		2	
8	4			1		2		
9			4		3	5		
	3			7				
	6		3		4		5	
				8	7	9	6	

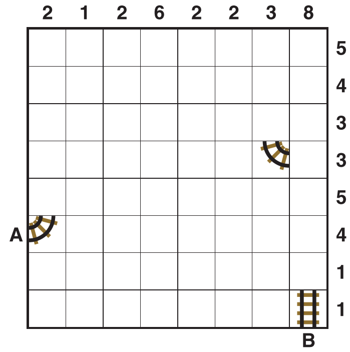
Killer tricky

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Each set of cells joined by dotted lines must add up to the target number in its top-left corner. Within each set of cells joined by dotted lines, a digit cannot be repeated.



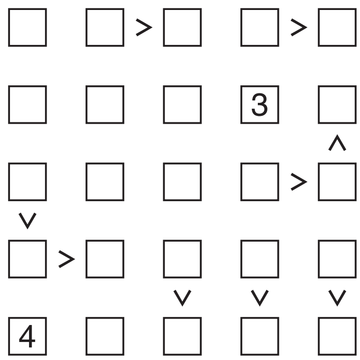
Train Tracks

Lay tracks to enable the train to travel from village A to village B. The numbers indicate how many sections of track go in each row and column. There are only straight sections and curved sections. The track cannot cross itself.

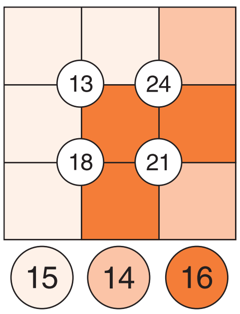


Futoshiki

Fill the blank squares so that every row and column contains each of the numbers 1 to 5 once only. The symbols between the squares indicate whether a number is larger (>) or smaller (<) than the number next to it.



Suko

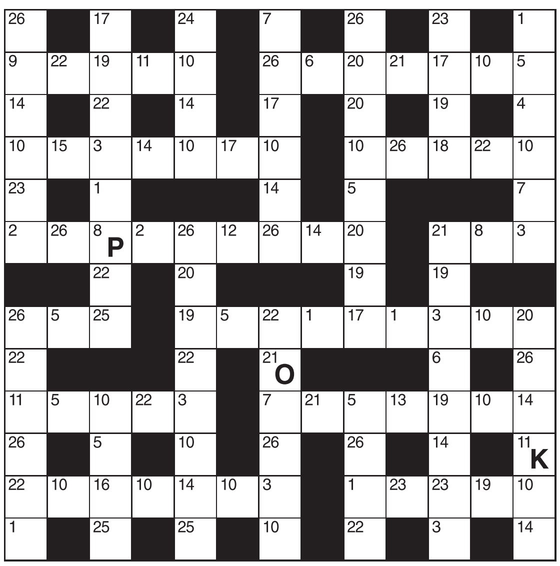


Place the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding spaces, and each colour total is correct

Solve Times puzzles interactively with same-day solutions at thetimes.co.uk

Codeword

Every letter in the crossword-style grid, right, is represented by a number from 1 to 26. Each letter of the alphabet appears in the grid at least once. Use the letters already provided to work out the identity of further letters. Enter letters in the main grid and the smaller reference grid until all 26 letters of the alphabet have been accounted for. Proper nouns are excluded.



A B C D E F G H I J ~~K~~ L M N ~~O~~ ~~P~~ Q R S T U V W X Y Z

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
							P			K		
14	**15**	**16**	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20**	**21**	**22**	**23**	**24**	**25**	**26**
							O					

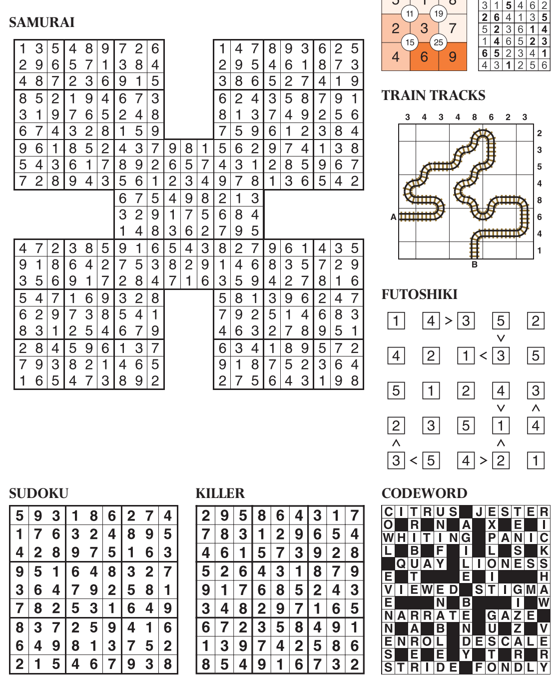
Mini Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x2 box contains the digits 1 to 6

			3		
	4			2	
6					4
3					5
	2			5	
			4		

Solutions in tomorrow's Times2

Yesterday's solutions



This history of sex is all just a bit of a carry-on

Carol Midgley
TV review



Sex: A Bonkers History
Sky History/Now
★★☆☆☆

Juice
BBC3
★★★☆☆

Sex: A Bonkers History began by warning that it contains the adult themes of "nudity, swearing and lots of sex". Which is ironic as it seemed to be pitched at the educational level of an eight-year-old. If it hadn't been for the bare breasts, huge phalluses and the presenter/historian Dan Jones at one point declaring that his tongue was erect (a "bleurgh" moment if ever there was one) I would have assumed this was a kids' show, but with none of the sophistication, creativity and wit of *Horrible Histories*. There was little cohesive narrative as we went between Sparta, ancient India, Egypt and Rome in an end-of-the-pier whistle-stop show that seemed predicated on getting the co-presenter Amanda Holden into a short, sexy Spartan toga-type sheet as soon as possible.

As it happens, I like Holden (and I like Jones), but what on earth was that interlude when she titted about with a javelin at the Crystal Palace athletics stadium to illustrate that Spartan women were physically fit? It was a total irrelevance. Ditto that tantric sex caper in a yoga studio, which I think was supposed to illuminate aspects of the *Kama Sutra* but was simply boring. I could see they were on a low budget, but strewth! It looked as if it was made with the change down the back of Holden's sofa.

It's a shame because she is a decent host and this isn't a bad idea — a study of sex down the ages among, as she said, "the only species on the planet that has outlawed, punished and stigmatised sexual desire". But it was so overexcited by the idea, with breathless sections called, for example, *Bonk Like an Egyptian*, it forgot to tell us anything very new or interesting.

The best bit, actually, was when they went to a gym to see if Holden's heart rate would increase while watching two sweaty men boxing. This was a way of illustrating that in ancient Rome women were turned on by gladiators, a ticket to the Colosseum being obviously way beyond the programme's budget (and actually it would be hypocritical of me to knock them for a small carbon footprint). When they checked her heart rate it had actually gone down. She was the opposite of aroused. I'm with her all the way on that.

AETN



Amanda Holden took us on a patchy tour of sex down the ages

All credit to Mawaan Rizwan and Russell Tovey for their take on Morecambe & Wise's 1976 breakfast sketch in the new comedy **Juice**. It's a brave move to mimic an unimprovable classic, and while it didn't come close to matching the genius of the original, done as a parody of a striptease, it was clever and a very good effort. They used the grapefruit mouths in the same way and it was done with similar *joie de vivre*. Apparently it took 67 takes to nail the toast-catching scene featuring Rizwan's character Jamma and Tovey's Guy, which makes you admire the original even more.

Anyway *Juice* is funny — not always, but mostly — and Rizwan with his silly walks and fluid body has a comedic physicality that puts you in mind of Michael Crawford as Frank Spencer, perhaps with a touch of Mr Bean and added surrealism. Tovey plays the straight man in this sweet, gay relationship, and *Juice* deserves merit for its refreshing air of innocence and joyfulness.

Radio choice
Joe Clay



The Documentary
World Service, 9.30am

This year was the first season of the Women's Premier League in India, the world's second most valuable cricketing league, behind only the men's league. While Indian players dominated, there was another factor that marked them out — many Indian women cricketers are single. Yet India still values the institution of marriage very highly and single women often face challenges in the workplace. Emma John, a cricket journalist and single woman herself, *above*, asks single women in India about their experiences, exploring whether the rapid rise of cricket reflects broader changes in Indian society.

OUR TV NEWSLETTER
Sign up to a weekly briefing of the only shows you need to watch
thetimes.co.uk/bulletins

television & radio

Viewing Guide
Julia Raeside

Rise of the Nazis: The Manhunt
BBC2, 9pm

Top pick

The first of three programmes that focus on the aftermath of the Second World War and the hunt for those who inflicted unspeakable horrors during the Holocaust. Through expert contributions and dramatic reconstruction, pieces of lesser-known history are brought to life. These include the story of how Rudolf Höss, the commandant of Auschwitz, evaded capture for a year before his arrest in 1946 and subsequent testimony at the Nuremberg trials. His account of his crimes would be key to the prosecution. When accused of murdering three and a half million people, he said: "No. Only two and a half million. The rest died from disease and starvation." Intercut with the Nazi manhunt stories is the more familiar ground of Nuremberg itself. Reconstructions help us to imagine how Hermann Goering paced his cell as he realised his fate, while the observations of his prison psychologist, Gustave Gilbert, are also included. But it is the start of the first episode that shocks most profoundly: footage of the discovery of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.

Secrets of Our Universe with Tim Peake
Channel 5, 9pm

A new landmark series from Channel 5, going one better than the other more popular channels by hiring a real spaceman to tell us about the mysteries of space. If you thought Professor Brian Cox had the cosmos sewn up, think again. Tim Peake actually went there in 2015, becoming the first Brit to live aboard the International Space Station, and is more than qualified to host this relatable and beautifully shot three-part series about, well, everything. The big brain theorising and years of study into physics and astronomy are all well and good, but if you've never seen the inside of a Soyuz TMA-19M rocket, are you really an expert? The three parts of this series will cover space and black holes, human space exploration and, tonight, the planets. Why do some planets have rings? What are stars made of? What do space people eat?

BBC1

Early

6.00am Breakfast **9.15** Morning Live **10.00** Fraud Squad. A man claims tax credits on 188 fake children (AD) **10.45** Claimed and Shamed. A woman tries to claim £100,000 after a fast-food brawl **11.15** Homes Under the Hammer. Featuring properties in East Sussex, Merseyside and north-west London **12.15pm** Bargain Hunt. Charlie Ross presents the show from Hele near Exeter (r) (AD) **1.00** BBC News at One; Weather **1.30** BBC Regional News; Weather **1.45** Doctors. The fallout from the AI situation continues at the Mill (AD) **2.15** Money for Nothing. Jacqui Joseph scours boots full of rubbish at Altrincham Recycling Centre (r) **3.00** Escape to the Country. Jules Hudson helps a young family search for a new home where they can realise their dream of self-sufficiency in Scotland's Caithness with a budget of £270,000 **3.45** Garden Rescue. The team help a couple from Keynsham turn their awkward new build garden into a relaxing, contemporary, zen garden for them and their three boys on a budget of £5,000 **4.30** The Finish Line. Roman Kemp and Sarah Greene host the quiz **5.15** Pointless. Quiz hosted by Alexander Armstrong (r) **6.00** BBC News at Six; Weather **6.30** BBC Regional News; Weather

BBC2

6.20am Bargain Hunt (r) **7.05** Garden Rescue (r) **7.50** Sign Zone: Expert Witness (r) (SL) **8.20** Robson Green's Weekend Escapes (r) (AD, SL) **8.50** Lifeline (r) **9.00** Nicky Campbell **10.00** BBC News **12.15pm** Politics Live **1.00** The Super League Show. Tanya Arnold introduces action from the penultimate round of regular-season fixtures, including Wigan Warriors v Castleford Tigers and Catalans Dragons v Leeds Rhinos (r) **2.00** Impossible. Quiz (r) **2.45** Beechgrove Repotted. George Anderson finds out how productive a small space can be (r) **3.00** Kelvin's Big Farming Adventure. Kelvin Fletcher and Liz buy their first livestock (r) (AD) **3.30** Great Canadian Railway Journeys. Michael Portillo travels from Pictou to Prince Edward Island (r) (AD) **4.00** Serengeti. A lioness and her sister feel threatened by a male stalker (r) (AD) **5.00** Flog It! Paul Martin finds out about boat building in Bristol in this episode from Bristol Cathedral, where he is joined by experts James Lewis and Natasha Raskin-Sharp (r) **6.00** Richard Osman's House of Games. With Milton Jones, Ria Lina, Martin Roberts and Briony May Williams (r) **6.30** Marcus Wareing's Tales from a Kitchen Garden. The chef discovers the secret to great cider-making

ITV1

6.00am Good Morning Britain. Morning magazine featuring a lively mix of news and current affairs, plus health, entertainment and lifestyle features **9.00** Lorraine. Entertainment, current affairs and fashion news, as well as showbiz stories and gossip. Presented by Lorraine Kelly **10.00** This Morning. A mix of chat, lifestyle features, advice and competitions. Including Local Weather **12.30pm** Loose Women. More interviews and topical debate from a female perspective **1.30** ITV News; Weather **1.55** Regional News; Weather **2.00** James Martin's Spanish Adventure. The chef explores Cadiz with José Pizarro, and the pair take in the sights of the local food market and its Sherry Triangle before eating by the sea (AD) **3.00** Tenable. Quiz show hosted by Warwick Davis. A team of five vicars take on a series of Top 10 list questions **4.00** Tipping Point. Ben Shephard hosts the arcade-themed quiz in which contestants drop tokens down a choice of four chutes in the hope of winning a £10,000 jackpot **5.00** The Chase. Bradley Walsh presents as four contestants work as a team to take on one of the ruthless Chasers and secure a cash prize **6.00** Regional News; Weather **6.30** ITV News; Weather

Channel 4

6.05am Countdown. Justin Moorhouse is in Dictionary Corner with Susie Dent (r) **6.45** Cheers (r) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond (r) (AD) **8.25** Frasier (r) (AD) **9.55** Château DIY. Jayne and Steve host a residential landscape painting course (r) (AD) **10.55** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. A selection of projects celebrating Britain's rich history and traditions (r) (AD) **11.55** Channel 4 News Summary **12.00** Steph's Packed Lunch **2.10pm** Countdown **3.00** A Place in the Sun. Leah Charles-King helps a couple search for a holiday home in western Cyprus, which they plan to share with all their family (r) **4.00** A Place in the Sun. Danni Menzies heads to the Greek island of Corfu to help a woman from Manchester find her dream holiday home with a budget of £170,000 **5.00** A New Life in the Sun. Plumbing problems hit a pair of holiday hosts in France, and a Lancashire family launch their new cocktail bar in Spain (r) **6.00** The Simpsons. Homer despairs when Springfield's fast-food restaurants all start serving healthy meals, while Lisa tries to find a news story to save her school radio station (r) (AD) **6.30** Hollyoaks. Hunter confides in Carter about his concerns over not being able to do his job (r) (AD)

Channel 5

6.00am Milkshake! **9.15** Jeremy Vine. The broadcaster and guests discuss the issues of the day with co-host Storm Huntley **11.15** Storm Huntley. Debate on the day's talking points continues with Storm Huntley **12.40pm** Alexis Conran. The actor, writer and broadcaster examines the important stories of the day, getting viewers' opinions and views **1.40** 5 News at Lunchtime **1.45** Home and Away. Elandra tries to broker peace between Mali and his mum with Vicky enraged by the news that Rose is a cop. Justin tries to reassure Theo after his stumble at the album launch Q&A (r) (AD) **2.15 FILM: Fatal Mind Games (PG, TVM, 2022)** A widow takes a job as an overnight security guard, and during a shift she witnesses a murder, only to discover the victim is alive and well. Thriller with Demetria Curry **4.00** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. A woman who longs to relocate to Benidorm has a taste of that it would be like to live and work there, as she spends the day volunteering at Colin Coco Brown's horse rescue centre **5.00** 5 News at 5 **6.00** Susan Calman's Grand Day Out. The presenter visits the Peak District in the heart of England, famed for its striking landscapes and rolling hills (r) **6.55** 5 News Update



BBC1

7PM

7.00 The One Show Presented by Lauren Laverne and Jermaine Jenas

7.30 EastEnders Jean arranges a surprise hen-do for Kat, while Denise refuses to help when Suki's plan falls apart as she fears for her family's safety (AD)

8PM

8.00 Living Next Door to Putin Katya Adler continues her journey along the Russian border, going from Estonia into snowy Scandinavia, discovering the differences in attitudes from country to country. *See Viewing Guide* (2/2) (AD)

9PM

9.00 The Following Events Are Based on a Pack of Lies Cheryl tries to stop her scholarship from suffering a huge loss and just when Alice thinks she's found a way to get justice the system is rigged against her (4/5) (AD)

10PM

10.00 BBC News at Ten

10.30 BBC Regional News and Weather

10.40 Juice Sitcom, written by and starring Mawaan Rizwan. Jamma sneakily uses his brother for market research at work, and makes a desperate attempt to save his parents' marriage (1/6) (r)

11PM

11.10 Juice Instead of focusing on his own issues, Jamma ends up playing therapist to his parents (2/6) (r)

11.30 Boot Dreams: Now or Never Jordan gets a high-stakes trial with Bradford City, but the coaches are worried about his self-control. In an emotional heart to heart, Gifton opens up about the pressure to succeed and why he wants so badly for the boys to make the most of their big chance (5/6) (r) (AD)

Late

12.35am-6.00 BBC News

BBC2

7.00 Coastal Defenders The dive team are charged with clearing a graveyard of abandoned boats causing an eyesore and a missing lifeboat canister means a ferry is unable to sail (AD)

8.00 This Farming Life Fraser and Carianne head to the mainland to buy new tups. The Barclay family prepare their sheep for the Lanark Winter show and Nikki and Ollie try their hand at farming rabbits (4/12) (r)

9.00 Rise of the Nazis: The Manhunt New series. The return of the documentary, picking up in the immediate aftermath of the Second World War, when the hunt began to capture and convict the highest-ranking Nazis for their crimes. *See Viewing Guide* (1/4) (AD)

10.00 Henpocalypse! The women get an ultimatum from their enemy as Zara's wedding day dawns and they decide what they will sacrifice (6/6) (AD)

10.30 Newsnight Analysis of the day's events with Victoria Derbyshire

11.15 An Education (12, 2009) A teenager questions the value of conventional education when an older suitor takes her under his wing. Sixties drama with Carey Mulligan, Peter Sarsgaard, Alfred Molina, Cara Seymour and Rosamund Pike. *See Viewing Guide* (AD)

12.50am Sign Zone: Money for Nothing An old rusty pulley, a nursing chair and a table with cast-iron legs (r) (SL) **1.35** Garden Rescue. Lee Burkhill and Chris Hull create a wildlife haven from a bland back garden (r) (SL) **2.20-3.05** Claimed and Shamed: Most Shocking. The conman who crashed his car to get a pay-out (r) (AD, SL)

ITV1

7.30 Emmerdale Leyla is furious, Craig continues to use Samson, and Bob reconnects with Wendy (AD)

8.00 Coronation Street Ed and Ronnie's excavation unearths a corpse, Ryan struggles to meet demand for his content, Stephen and Jenny return from Paris, Todd approaches George to ask for his old job back, and Tim plays a prank on Steve (AD)

9.00 My Mum, Your Dad The children are thrilled when sparks fly between two parents they choose to go on a date, but one dad's refusal to commit leaves him in danger of losing two potential connections (7/10) (AD)

10.00 ITV News at Ten

10.30 Regional News

10.45 The Rock (15, 1996) An FBI chemical weapons expert and a jailed SAS veteran must break into Alcatraz to bring down a renegade general and his men. Action thriller starring Sean Connery, Nicolas Cage, Ed Harris, David Morse and Bokeem Woodbine (AD)

1.00am My Mum, Your Dad The children are thrilled when sparks fly between two parents (r) (AD) **1.50** The Chase. Quiz show hosted by Bradley Walsh (r) **2.40** Loose Women. Topical debate from a female perspective (r) **3.30** Tenable (r) (SL) **4.20** Unwind with ITV **5.05-6.00** James Martin's Spanish Adventure (r) (AD, SL)

Channel 4

7.00 Channel 4 News

8.00 The Truth About the "Skinny" Jab Anna Richardson investigates the modern weightloss drugs that have dominated the news and social media. Plus, a look into the off-label use and the illegal black market selling dangerous counterfeit versions of the drug. *See Viewing Guide* (AD)

9.00 999: On the Front Line Paramedics are called to a man with chest pains, who is in so much discomfort that he can hardly speak, while a woman with liver disease has fallen over and ripped her ear. Just going to the toilet leaves another patient in agony, as he has only one kidney (8/10) (r)

10.00 Selling Super Houses The men face off against the women as they stage two identical luxury apartments. Tensions rise as teammates have two very different approaches to the challenge. PK's brutal feedback hits hard before six contestants becomes five (4/6) (AD)

11.05 Gogglebox The armchair critics share their opinions on programmes including *My Mum, Your Dad, Welcome to Wrexham, Love & Death, Marcus Wareing's Tales from a Kitchen Garden, Animals Up Close with Bertie Gregory, Puzzling with Lucy Worsley* and *This Morning* (r) (AD, SL)

12.10am Ramsay's 24 Hours to Hell and Back Helping restaurant owners in Pennsylvania (r) (AD, SL) **12.55** Couples Come Dine with Me (r) **1.50** Alone: The Final (r) (AD) **2.45** Screw (r) (AD, SL) **3.40** Undercover Boss USA (r) **4.30** Location, Location, Location (r) **5.25** Beat the Chef (r) **5.50-6.05** Jamie's Comfort Food (r)

Channel 5

7.00 GPs: Behind Closed Doors Irene arrives with a nasty foot infection, which Dr Sam Savage thinks could be shingles. Farhan is struggling with a tight chest and feelings of suffocation in enclosed spaces

7.55 5 News Update

8.00 The Yorkshire Vet Peter battles to save a ewe and her unborn triplets, David visits a calf with an infected navel that requires potentially life-saving surgery, and Julian helps some university students with their scheme to provide free veterinary services for people who can't afford them

9.00 Secrets of Our Universe with Tim Peake New series. The astronaut delivers an exploration of our universe, sharing his knowledge of the planets, stars and black holes, and space missions. *See Viewing Guide* (1/3)

10.00 Soham: Evil in a Small Town Documentary examining the deaths of 10-year-old girls Holly Wells and Jessica Chapman in the Cambridgeshire town in August 2002, a crime that shocked the entire country. With exclusive access to the forensic teams, the programme follow the events leading up to the trial and those who gave evidence

12.45am Criminals: Caught on Camera (r) **1.15** PlayOJO Live Casino Show **3.15** Stalked: Murder in Slow Motion. A woman shot dead in a department store (r) **4.05** OMG: Make Me a Famous Face (r) (SL) **4.50** Nick's Quest (r) (SL) **5.15** House Doctor (r) (SL) **5.40** Entertainment News on 5 **5.45-6.00** Paw Patrol (r)

Living Next Door to Putin
BBC1, 8pm

Katya Adler journeys across Estonia, Finland and into Norway to meet more of Russia's nearest neighbours to find out how they are dealing with the unease and uncertainty since the invasion of Ukraine. Soaring above Finland in a balloon, she sees attempts to construct a border fence to deter attacks. In Norway the attitude is more easy-going but conscripts keep watch, most of them just out of school. Adler has an emotional encounter with a beluga whale that turned up in Norwegian waters and was assumed to be a Russian spy. Not as mad as it sounds.

The Truth About the 'Skinny' Jab
Channel 4, 8pm

Anna Richardson fronts this documentary about the new breed of "skinny jabs", which purport to be a quick fix for losing weight. The latest, Wegovy, works by suppressing appetite and making patients feel fuller for longer. Ozempic has gained a reputation as a fast-track to weight loss by simulating a hormone that helps to send a message to the brain that says you're full. But there are also the side-effects and, for Ozempic, a shortage that led to a dearth of the drug for diabetes patients who needed it to aid insulin production.

Winning Hearts and Minds
BBC4, 10pm

Nagieb Khaja, a former Danish soldier and now journalist, returns to Afghanistan to investigate allegations that local boys and men were abused by the Afghan police while the country was occupied by western forces. Khaja was stationed there during the Nato patrols after the war. British and Danish troops had been deployed to keep the peace and win over the locals. Khaja and his small crew gain access to some of the alleged victims and a local chief of police, carefully navigating the horrors they describe like an archaeologist removing dirt with a small brush.

Film An Education
BBC2, 11.15pm

Adapted by Nick Hornby from a memoir by Lynn Barber, this Sixties-set coming-of-age picture is driven by first-rate performances from Peter Sarsgaard and Carey Mulligan. An enjoyably bracing portrait of a romantic misadventure. (12, 2009)

Sky Max

6.00am Supergirl (r) **7.00** DC's Legends of Tomorrow (r) (AD) **8.00** The Flash (r) **9.00** Stargate Atlantis (r) **11.00** Supergirl (r) **12.00** The Flash (r) **1.00pm** NCIS: Los Angeles (r) **3.00** Hawaii Five-0 (r) **4.00** S.W.A.T (r) (AD) **5.00** DC's Legends of Tomorrow (r) (AD)
6.00 Stargate SG-1. Part one of two. Pilot episode of the sci-fi series (r)
7.00 Stargate SG-1. Part two of two. The team searches for Jackson's wife (r)
8.00 A League of Their Own Road Trip: Loch Ness to London. Jamie, Freddie and Romesh set off on another adventure (r) (AD)
9.00 A Discovery of Witches. Marcus struggles to reconnect with his children (r) (AD)
10.00 FILM: Saw (18, 2004) Two strangers are imprisoned by a madman and forced to play a deadly game. Horror starring Cary Elwes
12.00 The Blacklist (r) **1.00am** Road Wars (r) **2.00** Never Mind the Buzzcocks (r) **2.45** Road Wars (r) **3.10** Hawaii Five-0 (r) **4.05** S.W.A.T (r) (AD) **5.00** Highway Patrol (r)

Sky Atlantic

6.00am Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets (r) (AD) **7.55** The Leftovers (r) (AD) **10.20** Ray Donovan (r) (AD) **12.25pm** Game of Thrones (r) (AD) **1.25** Raised by Wolves (r) (AD) **3.25** Six Feet Under (r) (AD) **5.40** Ray Donovan (r) (AD)
7.50 Game of Thrones. Jon tries to negotiate a peace with Mance Rayder, but an unexpected arrival changes the situation, while Tyrion receives a visit from Jaime (r) (AD)
9.00 The Lovers. Janet suggests that she and Seamus should have an affair (2/6) (r)
9.40 Billions. Axe turns to Chuck for a favour involving a common adversary (6/12) (r)
10.45 Tin Star. Anna is taken into hospital by Ammonite teenager Rosa Nickel and her mother, and Angela finds an unlikely ally (2/9) (r) (AD)
11.50 Billions. The time comes for Chuck to step into a new role. Axe's latest move puts him right in Mike Prince's line of fire (4/12) (r) (AD)
1.00am Das Boot. In German (r) **2.00** Domina. Livia finally learns the truth about Gemina
4.15 Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets (r) (AD)

Sky Documentaries

6.00am The 2000s (r) **7.00** Discovering: John Hurt (r) **8.00** The Directors (r) **9.00** One Shot: The Football Factory (r) (AD) **10.00** Spector (r) (AD) **11.00** 100 Foot Wave (r) (AD) **12.00** Jackie Stewart (r) **1.50pm** The Forever Prisoner (r) (AD) **4.00** The Directors (r) **5.00** Discovering: John Hurt. A profile of the actor (r)
6.00 One Shot: The Football Factory (r) (AD)
7.00 Spector. A look at how Phil Spector gained a sinister reputation (2/4) (r) (AD)
8.00 100 Foot Wave. Tony finally gets an opportunity to compete (6/6) (r) (AD)
9.00 Bruno v Tyson. The boxing rivalry between Frank Bruno and Mike Tyson (r) (AD)
10.50 The Inventor: Out For Blood In Silicon Valley. Investigating the rise and fall of the healthcare company Theranos (r)
1.00am FILM: In the Same Breath (PG, 2021) Documentary focusing on the coronavirus pandemic in China **3.00** The Last Hospital: 30 Days In Myanmar (r) **4.00** The Directors (r) **5.00** Discovering: John Hurt (r)

Sky Arts

6.00am Giselle **8.00** The Joy of Painting **9.00** Tales of the Unexpected **10.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **11.00** Discovering: Jon Voight **12.00** The Joy of Painting **1.00pm** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** The Danish Collector: Delacroix to Gauguin **3.00** The Art of Architecture Special: Qatar (AD) **4.00** Discovering: Dustin Hoffman
5.00 Tales of the Unexpected (AD)
6.00 Alfred Hitchcock Presents
7.00 The Joy of Painting. A stunning waterfall
7.30 The Joy of Painting. A winter scene
8.00 The Story of British Cinema: The Pioneer Years. Exploring the boom in British cinema
9.30 Comedy Legends. Barry Cryer examines the life and career of Frankie Howerd
10.30 Diana Ross & the Supremes: Music Icons
11.00 Discovering: Leonardo DiCaprio
12.00 Soundtracks: Songs That Defined History. The course of the Cold War in Berlin **1.00am** Cartoon Carnival **2.45** Hopper: An American Love Story **4.00** Renoir — Revered and Reviled **5.00** Inside Art Special: Coventry City of Culture

Sky Main Event

6.00am Sky Sports News **7.00** Good Morning Sports Fans **10.00** The Football Show **11.00** The Football Show **12.00** Lunchtime Live **2.00pm** Sports Desk **3.00** Sports Desk **4.00** Sports Desk
5.00 Sky Sports News at 5
6.00 Sky Sports News at 6
7.00 Gillette Labs Soccer Special
7.30 Live EFL: Sheffield Wednesday v Middlesbrough (Kick-off **8.00**). Coverage of the Championship encounter at Hillsborough. Both teams have endured disappointing starts, failing to win any of their first five league games, but Wednesday will be hoping to make home advantage count and emulate their 2-1 win when the sides last met here in December 2020
10.30 Back Pages Tonight
11.00 Sky Sports News
12.00 Live WNBA: New York Liberty v Washington Mystics (Tip-off **12.00**). Coverage of game two of the first round play-off series at Barclays Centre in Brooklyn **2.00am** Sky Sports News **3.00** Sky Sports News

TIMES Documentaries

IN OUR NEW FULL-LENGTH DOCUMENTARY, WE DIVE INTO A DEEPLY DIVISIVE ASPECT OF AMERICAN DISCOURSE. THE TEAM SPENT TWO WEEKS IN FLORIDA INVESTIGATING THE IMPACT OF SOME OF THE MORE CONTROVERSIAL POLICIES OF GOVERNOR RON DESANTIS.
DIRECTED BY ALASTAIR GOOD.

SEARCH 'MAKE AMERICA FLORIDA' ON YouTube

TalkTV

6.00am James Max. An initial insight into the day's top stories **6.30** The Julia Hartley-Brewer Breakfast Show. All the stories you need to know to start your day **9.30** Mike and Kev. Mike Graham and Kevin O'Sullivan give their unique take on the front pages and the latest news **10.00** Kevin O'Sullivan. The big stories of the day **1.00pm** Ian Collins. Hard-hitting monologues and debates **3.00** Peter Cardwell. Exclusive interviews **5.00** Vanessa Feltz. Big names, exclusive interviews, and viewers' thoughts on what has got the nation talking
7.00 Jeremy Kyle Live. The straight-talking host takes on the issues that really matter
8.00 Piers Morgan Uncensored. The host presents his verdict on the day's global events
9.00 The Talk. A panel of famous faces debate the hot topics everybody's talking about
10.00 First Edition. An energetic look at tomorrow's newspapers
11.00 Piers Morgan Uncensored
12.00 Petrie Hosken. Bringing the latest news stories overnight **1.00am** Jeremy Kyle Live **2.00** Peter Cardwell **3.00** Piers Morgan Uncensored **4.00** The Talk **5.00** James Max

BBC4

7.00pm Great Coastal Railway Journeys. Michael Portillo's coastal rail journey along the south coast of Wales reaches Port Talbot (AD)
7.30 Wonders of the Great Barrier Reef with Iolo Williams. Whether the Great Barrier Reef can survive the threat of global warming
8.30 Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em. The Spencers plan a trip to the seaside in their new car
9.00 Yes Minister. A construction project gets under way, but Sir Humphrey is being evasive
9.30 The Thick of It. Nicola tries desperately to find a sports star to front a campaign (AD)
10.00 Winning Hearts and Minds: Storyville. Investigating allegations that Afghan police were guilty of abuse against men and young boys in Helmand in the aftermath of the war in Afghanistan. *See Viewing Guide*
11.15 Invasion! with Sam Willis. The historian discovers French plans to invade Britain by balloon. Last in the series
12.15am Parkinson Meets Paul McCartney. From 1999 **1.20** Great Coastal Railway Journeys (AD) **1.50** Wonders of the Great Barrier Reef with Iolo Williams **2.50-3.55** Faith Ringgold: Tell It Like It Is — Imagine (SL)

Talking Pictures

6.00am Dalekmania **7.15** Sherlock Holmes (b/w) **7.50 FILM: No Way Back (PG, 1949)** (b/w) **9.20 FILM: Lena Rivers (12, 1932)** (b/w) **10.35** Look at Life **10.45 FILM: The Bank Raiders (U, 1958)** (b/w) **12.00** Factory Canteen in the 50s **12.10pm FILM: Mystery Junction (U, 1951)** (b/w) **1.25 FILM: Tonight's the Night (U, 1954)** (b/w) **3.15** Look at Life **3.35 FILM: Beach Red (12, 1967)** Wartime drama **5.25** Fireball XL-5 (b/w)
6.00 Colonel March of Scotland Yard (b/w)
6.30 Scotland Yard
7.05 The Four Just Men (b/w)
7.40 Dick Barton — Special Agent
7.55 Look at Life
8.05 The Human Jungle (b/w)
9.05 Maigret
10.55 Cellar Club with Caroline Munro
11.00 FILM: The Changeling (15, 1979) Spooky horror **1.15am** Cellar Club with Caroline Munro **1.20 FILM: Cat Girl (18, 1957)** (b/w) **2.55** Cellar Club with Caroline Munro **3.00 FILM: Hands of a Stranger (PG, TVM, 1962)** **4.40** Cellar Club with Caroline Munro **4.45** Roadrunner **5.00** Stagecoach West (b/w)

Film4

11.00am Red Mountain (PG, 1951) Western starring Alan Ladd **12.45pm The Tall T (PG, 1957)** Western starring Randolph Scott **2.20** Oppenheimer Interview Special **2.25 The Duel at Silver Creek (PG, 1952)** Western starring Audie Murphy **4.00 Tobruk (PG, 1967)** Second World War adventure with George Peppard (AD)
6.15 K-19: The Widowmaker (12, 2002) A Russian submarine crew tries to stop a cataclysmic explosion. Fact-based thriller starring Harrison Ford and Liam Neeson
9.00 The Predator (15, 2018) A band of former soldiers and a scientist attempt to defeat a savage extra-terrestrial warrior. Sci-fi thriller with Boyd Holbrook and Trevante Rhodes (AD)
11.10 Minari (12, 2020) Korean immigrant Jacob Yi uproots his family from their home in California to Arkansas to start a 50-acre farm. Romantic drama set in the 1980s starring Steven Yeun, Yeri Han and Alan S Kim
1.25am-3.15 Wild Nights with Emily (PG, 2018) The story of the little-known side of the writer Emily Dickinson's life, and her relationship with another woman. Comedy drama starring Molly Shannon

More4

8.55am Kirstie's Handmade Treasures **9.15** A Place in the Sun **10.05** A New Life in the Sun **11.05** Find It, Fix It, Flog It (AD) **1.10pm** Heir Hunters **2.10** Four in a Bed **4.50** Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It (AD) **5.50** The Secret Life of the Zoo. Memorable moments (AD)
6.55 The Dog House. Two funeral workers want to rescue a dog in need (AD)
7.55 Grand Designs. A project to convert a 150-year-old derelict water tower in central London into a luxury home, complete with a room at the top offering spectacular 360-degree views across the capital (5/12) (AD)
9.00 24 Hours in A&E. A 21-year-old is rushed in after a motorbike accident (AD)
10.00 Rescue: Extreme Medics. Medics in Glasgow rush to the aid of a 54-year-old who has suffered multiple leg injuries after crashing his motorbike at speed (4/5) (AD)
11.05 The Emergency Ward. Dr Mya's patient gets scared while having a serious nosebleed, while security tackle a violent man (AD)
12.05am 24 Hours in A&E (AD) **1.05** 999: On the Front Line **2.10** 24 Hours in A&E (AD) **3.15-3.45** A Place in the Sun

ITV2

6.00am CITV **9.00** One Tree Hill **10.00** Dawson's Creek **11.00** Love Bites (AD, SL) **12.00** Dinner Date (AD) **1.00pm** Family Fortunes **2.00** Chuck **3.05** One Tree Hill **4.00** Dawson's Creek **5.00** Dinner Date (AD)
6.00 Celebrity Catchphrase (AD)
7.00 Family Fortunes. Gino D'Acampo hosts
8.00 Superstore. Glenn has a health scare (AD)
8.30 Superstore. Amy sets up a haunted house in the shop that leaves Glenn terrified (AD)
9.00 Gordon, Gino and Fred: American Road Trip. The trio visit San Francisco, where highlights include afternoon tea, laced with cannabis (AD)
10.00 FILM: Plebs — Soldiers of Rome (12, TVM, 2022) Feature-length conclusion to the sitcom starring Tom Rosenthal (AD)
11.55 Family Guy. Peter embarks on a campaign to win an award for Family Guy (AD)
12.20am Family Guy (AD) **12.45** American Dad! (AD) **1.40** Superstore (AD) **2.30** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records (SL) **3.00** Teleshopping **5.00** The Epic Tales of Captain Underpants (AD) **5.25** Scooby-Doo! Mystery Incorporated **5.45** Craig of the Creek

ITV3

6.00am Classic Emmerdale **7.05** Classic Coronation Street (AD) **8.05** On the Buses **9.15** Where the Heart Is (AD) **11.35** Heartbeat (AD) **1.40pm** Classic Emmerdale **2.45** Classic Coronation Street (AD) **3.55** Endeavour (AD)
5.55 Heartbeat. Suspicion falls on Gina's new cellar man when a valuable pendant is stolen (AD) **6.55** Heartbeat. Lord Ashfordly's tenants are angered when his new estate manager Jimbo Brady raises their rents (AD)
8.00 Midsomer Murders. Barnaby and Winter investigate when Lower Pampling's star cricketer is found dead in the grounds, pummelled to death by cricket balls (AD)
10.00 Professor T. A librarian dies after being poisoned at a drinks reception at the museum, and Jasper is called upon to help narrow down the list of possible suspects (2/6) (AD)
11.05 Agatha Christie's Poirot. The detective investigates the supernatural when a ghostly murderer strikes in a Norfolk village. Geraldine Alexander and Ian McCulloch guest star (AD)
12.15am Where the Heart Is (AD) **2.20** Unwind with ITV **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

6.00am Minder (AD, SL) **7.00** The Professionals (AD, SL) **8.10** The Saint **9.15** The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes (AD) **10.25** Magnum, PI **11.25** The Motorbike Show **12.25pm** The Saint **1.30** The Return of Sherlock Holmes (AD) **2.40** Magnum, PI **3.45** The Professionals (AD) **4.50** Minder (AD) **5.55** The Motorbike Show
7.00 BattleBots. Copperhead and Black Dragon battle for the high ground
8.00 Silverstone Festival. Part two of highlights, as Chris Hoy teams up with Alex Brundle behind the wheel of a Mustang, and NASCARs hit the track at Silverstone for the first time ever
9.00 FILM: Hellboy (12, 2004) A demon baby summoned during a thwarted Nazi experiment grows up to be a US government agent fighting against supernatural evil. Action fantasy starring Ron Perlman and John Hurt (AD)
11.25 All Elite Wrestling: Rampage. Action featuring Powerhouse Hobbs, Claudio Castagnoli, Ricky Starks and Jade Cargill
12.35am Auto Mundial **1.05** Motorsport Mundial **1.35** The Professionals (AD, SL) **2.30** The Protectors (SL) **3.00** Teleshopping

Drama

6.00am Teleshopping **7.15** All Creatures Great and Small **8.00** Doctors **9.20** Classic Holby City **10.40** Casualty **11.50** The Bill **12.50pm** Classic EastEnders **2.05** Pie in the Sky **3.05** Lovejoy **4.20** All Creatures Great and Small **5.30** The Upper Hand. Tom sets his mother up on a date
6.05 'Allo 'Allo! The Resistance provides a waitress to fill the vacancy at Cafe Rene
6.40 Last of the Summer Wine. Mrs Teesdale feels unnerved by Clegg, Compo and Seymour
7.20 Last of the Summer Wine. Clegg makes himself scarce. Peter Sallis stars
8.00 New Tricks. The murder of a notorious biker-gang leader is reinvestigated (8/10) (AD)
9.00 Dalziel & Pascoe. The detectives are drawn into the world of the paranormal when a mock killing on a television illusionist's show becomes a reality. Richard E Grant. Guests (3/5) (AD)
11.15 Silent Witness. A head teacher confronts the dealers preying on his community as the team deal with the consequences of a surge in drug-related crime. With Colin Salmon
1.30am Banished. Period drama (AD) **2.50** Classic Holby City (SL) **4.00** Teleshopping

Yesterday

6.10am Sounds of the Seventies **7.10** Warbird Workshop **8.00** Abandoned Engineering (AD) **10.00** Secret Nazi Bases **11.00** Narrow Escapes of World War II (AD) **12.00** Great Continental Railway Journeys **1.00pm** Antiques Roadshow **2.00** Bangers & Cash: Restoring Classics (AD) **4.00** Narrow Escapes of World War II (AD)
5.00 Secret Nazi Bases. A chilling discovery in the furthest reaches of Eastern Canada
6.00 Great British Railway Journeys
7.00 Antiques Roadshow. The team visits the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley
8.00 Joanna Lumley's Japan. Exploring Tokyo
9.00 Retro Electro Workshop. Shamil buys an 80s Technics record deck for Rob to restore (AD)
10.00 Bangers & Cash: Restoring Classics. The team snap up a slightly saggy 1970s Saab 96, but despite a stunning restoration, could it result in a record financial loss (AD)
11.00 Abandoned Engineering. The remains of a correctional facility in Atlanta, USA (3/12) (AD)
12.00 Great British Railway Journeys. Two editions **1.00am** Railway Murders **2.00** Sounds of the Seventies **3.00** Teleshopping

Variations

BBC1 N Ireland
As BBC1 except: 10.40pm Spotlight. The synthetic drugs hitting the streets **11.10** Juice (r) **11.40** Juice (r) **12.05am** Boot Dreams: Now or Never (r) (AD) **1.05-6.00** BBC News

BBC1 Scotland
As BBC1 except: 11.35pm Junior Doctors: Life on the Wards **12.05am** Boot Dreams: Now or Never (r) (AD) **1.05-6.00** BBC News

BBC1 Wales
As BBC1 except: 10.40pm Legends of Welsh Sport: Alan "The Arrow" Evans (r) **11.10** Juice (r) **11.40** Juice (r) **12.05am** Boot Dreams: Now or Never (r) (AD) **1.05-6.00** BBC News

BBC2 N Ireland
As BBC2 except: 10.00pm-10.30 Jailed: Inside Maghaberry Prison (r)

BBC2 Wales
As BBC2 except: 1.00pm Kelvin's Big Farming Adventure (r) (AD) **1.30** Beechgrove Repotted (r) **1.45** First Minister's Questions **2.45** The Super League Show (r) **3.45** Impossible (r) **4.30** Serengeti (r) (AD) **5.30-6.00** Chris and Meg's Wild Summer (r)

ITV1 Wales
As ITV1 except: 10.45 Face to Face. Adrian Masters is joined in conversation by a criminal solicitor who has worked on some of Wales' most high profile cases **12.05am-1.00** Secrets of the Krays (r) (AD)

STV
As ITV1 except: 10.30pm STV News **10.40** Scotland Tonight **11.05-1.00am** FILM: Identity Thief (2013) An executive searches for a conwoman living off his credit cards. Comedy starring Jason Bateman and Melissa McCarthy (AD) **4.20-5.05** Night Vision

BBC Scotland
7.00pm Grand Tours of Scotland's Rivers (r) **8.00** Scotland — The New Wild (AD) **9.00** The Nine **10.00** Rise of the Clans. Last in the series (r) **11.00** Gary: Tank Commander (r) **11.30-12.00** Sink or Skim (r) (AD)

BBC Alba
6.00am Alba Today **5.00pm** AH-AH/No-No (r) **5.10** Lon le Linda (r) **5.25** Oscar & Ealasaid (r) **5.40** Shane an Chef (r) **5.53** 'S E Iasg a Th'Annam (I'm a Fish) (r) **5.55** Stòiridh (r) **6.05** An Saoghal Droil aig Pol Ploc/The Rubbish World of Dave Spud (r) **6.15** Triuir aig Tri (r) **6.35** A' Chuil (r) **6.40** Proiseact Ploigh (r) **7.00** Clann a' Chogaidh Mhoir (Small Hands in a Big War) (r) **7.25** Dàn (r) **7.30** SpeakGaelic (r) **8.00** An Là (News) **8.30** Fuine (Home Baking) (r) **9.00** Sar Sgeoil: Open the Door. Revisiting Catherine Carswell's sadly neglected novel **10.00** Trusadh — Muinntir a' Mhuilinn/Mill Yarns (r) **11.00** Machair (r) **11.25** Fraochy Bay (r) **11.30** Alleluia! (Spiritual Music & Verse) (r) **12.00-6.00am** Alba Today

S4C
6.00am Cyw: Olobobs (r) **6.05** Gwdihw (r) **6.20** Pablo (r) **6.35** Odo (r) **6.45** Ahoi! (r) **7.00** Sblij a Sbloj (r) **7.10** Sam Tân (r) **7.20** Caru Canu a Stori (r) **7.30** Blero yn Mynd i Ocido (r) **7.45** Awyr Iach (r) **8.00** Cywion Bach (r) **8.05** Halibalw (r) **8.15** Bing (r) **8.25** Guto Gwningen (r) **8.40** Llan-ar-goll-en (r) **8.55** Og y Draenog Hapus (r) **9.05** Stiw (r) **9.15** Yr Ysgol (r) **9.30** Sion y Chef (r) **9.45** Sbarc (r) **10.00** Olobobs (r) **10.05** Gwdihw (r) **10.20** Pablo (r) **10.35** Odo (r) **10.45** Ahoi! (r) **11.00** Sblij a Sbloj (r) **11.10** Sam Tân (r) **11.20** Caru Canu a Stori (r) **11.30** Blero yn Mynd i Ocido (r) **11.45** Awyr Iach (r) **12.00** News; Weather **12.05pm** Sgwrs Dan y Lloer (r) **12.30** Heno (r) **1.00** Bwyd Epic Chris (r) **1.30** Cefn Gwlad (r) (AD) **2.00** News; Weather **2.05** Prynhawn Da **3.00** News **3.05** Ralïo+ (r) **4.00** Awr Fawr: Olobobs (r) **4.05** Sam Tân (r) **4.15** Pablo (r) **4.30** Blero yn Mynd i Ocido (r) **4.45** Ahoi! (r) **5.00** Stwnsh: Siwrne Ni (r) **5.05** Cath-Od (r) **5.20** Gwrach y Rhibyn (r) (AD) **5.40** Boom! (r) **5.55** Larfa (r) **6.00** Cofio Clive Rowlands (r) **6.30** Sgorio (r) **6.57** News **7.00** Heno **7.30** News; Weather **8.00** Pobol y Cwm. Dai has another fall in Bryntirion (AD) **8.25** Rownd a Rownd (AD) **8.55** News; Weather **9.00** Mike Phillips: Croeso i Dubai **10.00-11.45** Troseddau'r Baltig

MindGames

Tetonor Easy No 397

150	25	88	46
35	240	17	60
70	39	174	19
52	53	32	224

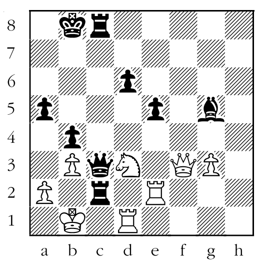
	2	4	5	5	6	7	10		14	15			32	44	

When complete, the strip below the grid can be split into eight pairs of numbers. Adding the numbers in a pair gives one of the 16 numbers in the grid. Multiplying them gives a different number in the grid. For example, a 4 and 6 in the strip could be paired to make 10 (4+6) and 24 (4x6) in the grid. Enter each sum below the corresponding number in the grid. The blanks in the strip must be deduced, bearing in mind the numbers are listed in ascending order.

The next Tetonor puzzle will appear on Thursday

For more puzzles, including Mini Sudoku, extra Codeword, Train Tracks and Futoshiki go to page 10

Winning Move



Black to play.
This position is from Martinez Reyes-Uzcategui Rodriguez, La Palma 2023.

In general it is a bad idea to advance the pawns in front of the king. The monarch needs protection and a pawn shield is a good place to start. However, with good control it can sometimes be a viable plan. Here Black has excellent control so the a and b-pawn advances are working. How did he finish?

Codeword No 5010

21	5	10	1	23	6	■	19	■	16	15	1	1
10	■	22	■	3	■	1	5	3	3	■	■	15
9	10	23	19	17	19	■	6	■	20	3	1	1
19	■	■	■	22	■	4	■	10	■	24	■	11
5	17	11	5	17	26	17	12	9	■	2	6	2
■	■	22	■	■	■	6	■	2	■	12	■	8
1	18	17	12	18	6	■	13 C	17 A	8 N	9	10	9
25	■	8	■	15	■	1	■	■	■	15	■	■
15	12	8	■	22	10	19	19	2	12	20	15	14
10	■	2	■	22	■	6	■	24	■	■	■	3
9	10	12	19	■	20	■	5	17	10	12	9	3
14	■	■	2	7	17	18	■	9	■	3	■	2
2	24	2	8	■	9	■	14	2	8	19	12	6

© PUZZLER MEDIA

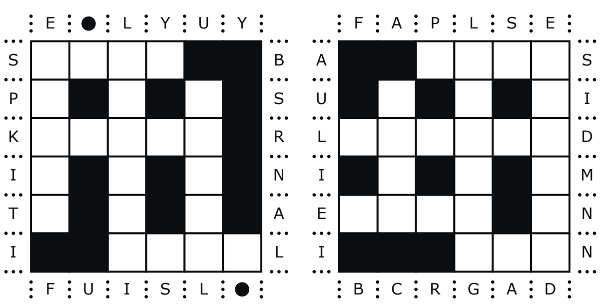
~~A~~ B ~~C~~ D E F G H I J K L M ~~N~~ O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
							N					C
14	**15**	**16**	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20**	**21**	**22**	**23**	**24**	**25**	**26**
			A									

Every letter in this crossword-style grid is represented by a number from 1 to 26. Each letter of the alphabet appears in the grid at least once. Use the letters already provided to work out the identity of further letters. Enter letters in the main grid and the smaller reference grid until all 26 letters of the alphabet have been accounted for. Proper nouns are excluded. *Yesterday's solution, right*

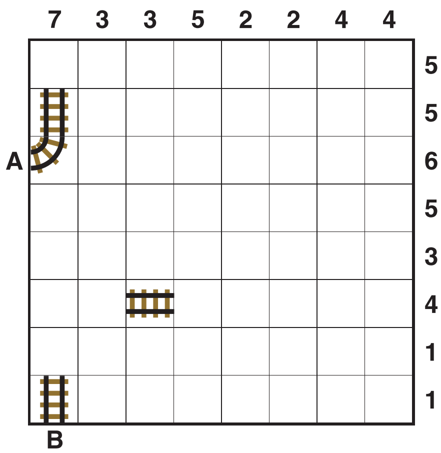
Cluelines Stuck on Codeword? To receive 4 random clues call 0901 293 6262 or text TIMECODE to 64343. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. Texts cost £1 plus your standard network charge. For the full solution call 0905 757 0142. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5.30pm).

Lexica No 7053 No 7054



Slide the letters either horizontally or vertically back into the grid to produce a completed crossword. Letters are allowed to slide over other letters

Train Tracks No 2043



Lay tracks to enable the train to travel from village A to village B. The numbers indicate how many sections of track go in each row and column. There are only straight sections and curved sections. The track cannot cross itself.

Quintagram®

Solve all five **cryptic** clues using each letter underneath once only

1 Cold and cool piece of fried potato (4)

_ _ _ _

2 Tea thus knocked over in total confusion (5)

_ _ _ _ _

3 He almost hit mule badly (6)

_ _ _ _ _ _

4 US soldier going round forest area gets flowering shrub (8)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

5 Haggled in pub and won (9)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

A	A	A	A	A	B	C	C
D	D	E	E	E	G	G	H
H	H	I	I	I	I	L	M
N	N	O	P	R	R	S	U

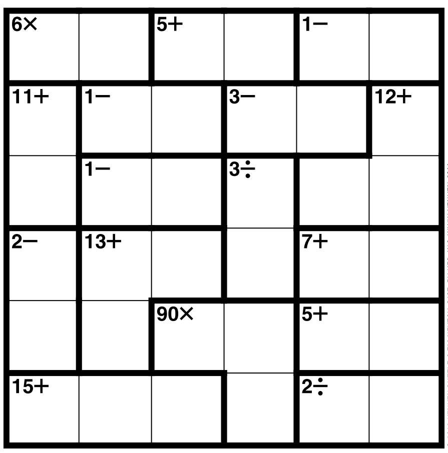
Challenge your mind with puzzle books from The Times



thetimes.co.uk/bookshop

What are your favourite puzzles in MindGames?
Email: puzzles@thetimes.co.uk

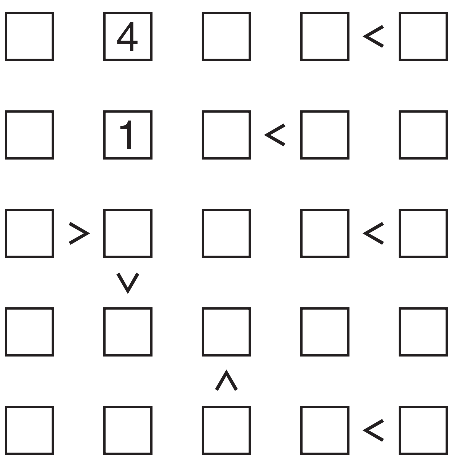
KenKen Medium No 6002



© 2010 KENKEN PUZZLE & TM NEXTOY. DIST. BY UFS, INC. WWW.KENKEN.COM

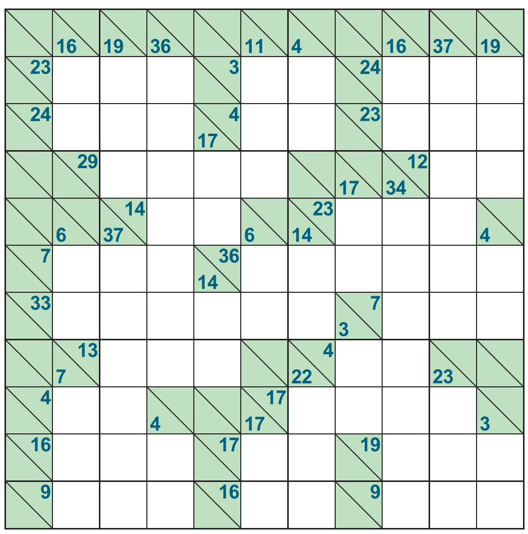
All the digits 1 to 6 must appear in every row and column. In each thick-line "block", the target number in the top left-hand corner is calculated from the digits in all the cells in the block, using the operation indicated by the symbol.

Futoshiki No 4567



Fill the blank squares so that every row and column contains each of the numbers 1 to 5 once only. The symbols between the squares indicate whether a number is larger (>) or smaller (<) than the number next to it.

Kakuro No 3526

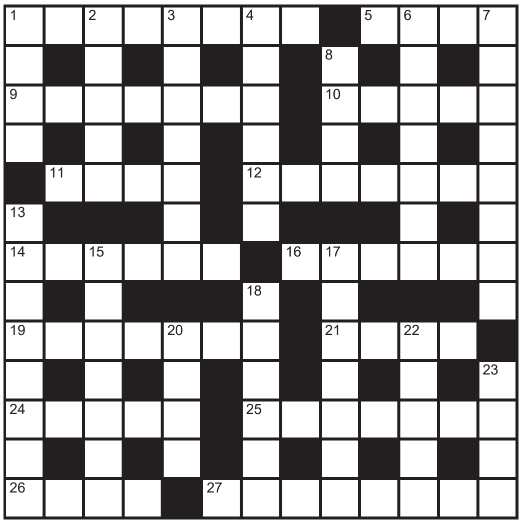


Fill the grid using the numbers 1 to 9 only. The numbers in each horizontal or vertical run of white squares add up to the total in the triangle to its left or above it. The same number may occur more than once in a row or column, but not within the same run of white squares.

© PUZZLER MEDIA

MindGames

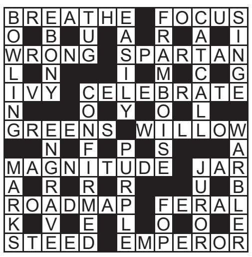
times2 Crossword No 9326



Across
1 Buoyant cistern device (4,4)
5 Feudal worker (4)
9 Move forwards (7)
10 Narrow-minded moraliser (5)
11 Unit of biological heredity (4)
12 Elegant, chic (7)
14 Boat's steering structure (6)
16 Lymphoid organ (6)
19 Spread through (7)
21 Cunning trick (4)
24 Mundane, trite (5)
25 Technophobe (7)
26 Bank or ridge of coral (4)
27 Amateurish (8)

Down
1 Male pig (4)
2 River embankment (5)
3 Gather for a meeting (7)
4 Gruyère or Gouda, eg (6)
6 Hard to find or pin down (7)
7 Drawn without the aid of rulers, compasses etc (8)
8 Nimble (4)
13 Beam between goalposts (8)
15 Protection from attack (7)
17 Self-contradictory truth (7)
18 Capital city of Germany (6)
20 Unsightly (4)
22 County (5)
23 Ancient Briton or Gaul (4)

Solution to Crossword 9325



Need help with today's puzzle? Call 0905 757 0143 to check the answers. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

Bridge Andrew Robson

Dealer: South, Vulnerability: Neither

Teams

North: ♠ AKQ865 ♥ K5 ♦ - ♣ KJ862
West: ♠ - ♥ J62 ♦ AQ963 ♣ A10743
East: ♠ 97432 ♥ 93 ♦ 8542 ♣ Q9
South: ♠ J10 ♥ AQ10874 ♦ KJ107 ♣ 5

S	W	N	E
1♥	2NT(1)	3♠	4♦(2)
4♥	Pass	6♥	End

(1) Unusual, showing five-five in the two lowest unbid suits (here, the minors).
(2) Cheeky — but I like it. After all, East has zero defence. His one high card is an offensive card (in one of partner's minors).

Contract: 6♥, Opening Lead: ♦ A

No English team qualified for the main events at the 46th World Bridge Teams Championships in Marrakesh. However, many English players enjoyed competing in the 13th World Transnational Open Teams — including your columnist.

The initial aim was to finish in the top 32 teams (out of 72) in the Swiss and so qualify for the knock-out phase. Getting boards like this one (of ten) correct was crucial. Many didn't.

Indeed, only four out of 16 declarers made 6♥. Plan the play on the lead of the ace of diamonds, and don't forget that West made an unusual 2NT bid.

You ruff the ace of diamonds lead and cash the king of hearts, both following. The kneejerk play now is a spade to the jack. No good this time — West would ruff (and cash the ace of clubs). Down you'd go.

You need West to have a second heart (if East has ♥J9xx, the slam is unmakeable). And you know West has ten minor-suit cards. West has at most one spade and may have zero. After the king of hearts, you need to return to your hand (to draw trumps) another way. And that other way can only be in clubs.

However, don't lead a low club (nor the jack), for now East can win the queen and give his partner a spade ruff. At trick three, you lead the king of clubs (key play), confident on the bidding that it will now be West who wins the trick.

West wins the ace of clubs but cannot do you any damage. Say he leads a second club. You may try dummy's jack (it doesn't hurt) and ruff East's queen. You then draw trumps and cash spades, overtaking the second round. Your 12 tricks are four spades, seven hearts (remember that diamond ruff at trick one) and the king of diamonds. Slam made and N-S 1,460.

The ten North-Souths who reached 6♠ had a far better success rate — seven of them made it. But I confess I don't understand why three did not. Surely you will score six tricks in each major ...?

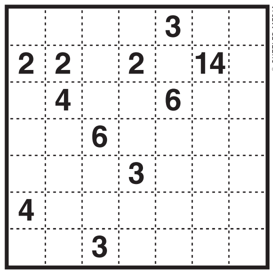
Meanwhile, nine North-Souths stopped off to double diamond contracts, generally 4♦, mostly making seven tricks. The resulting 800 penalty was much worse for North-South than making a vulnerable slam. But much, much better than going down in one.

andrew.robson@thetimes.co.uk

Brain Trainer

EASY	23	x 4	– 15	÷ 7	+ 6	x 2	+ 14	½ OF IT	+ 8	x 3	ANSWER
MEDIUM	62	+½ OF IT	+ 75	x 2	+½ OF IT	+ 99	⅔ OF IT	– 49	x 2	– 67	ANSWER
HARDER	121	+ 377	x 7	– 993	x 4	– 876	⅚ OF IT	70% OF IT	– 974	+½ OF IT	ANSWER

Cell Blocks No 4893



Divide the grid into square or rectangular blocks, each containing one digit only. Every block must contain the number of cells indicated by the digit inside it.

© PUZZLER MEDIA

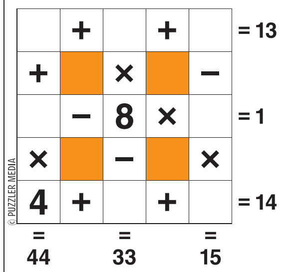
Polygon



From these letters, make words of **three** or more letters, always including the central letter. Answers must be in the *Concise Oxford Dictionary*, excluding capitalised words, plurals, conjugated verbs (past tense etc), adverbs ending in LY, comparatives and superlatives.
How you rate 14 words, average; 19, good; 23, very good; 27, excellent

Yesterday's answers
elf, felt, file, filet, filo, flit, floe, foil, **jetfoil**, jilt, jolt, left, lei, let, lie, lief, life, lift, lit, lite, loft, lot, loti, oil, olé, tile, toil, toile

Set Square No 3529

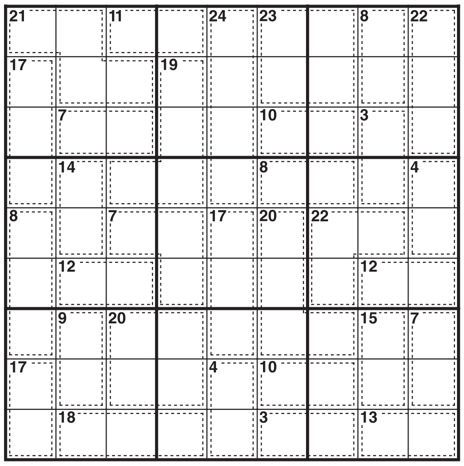


Enter each of the numbers from 1 to 9 in the grid, so that the six sums work. We've placed two numbers to get you started. Each sum should be calculated left to right or top to bottom.

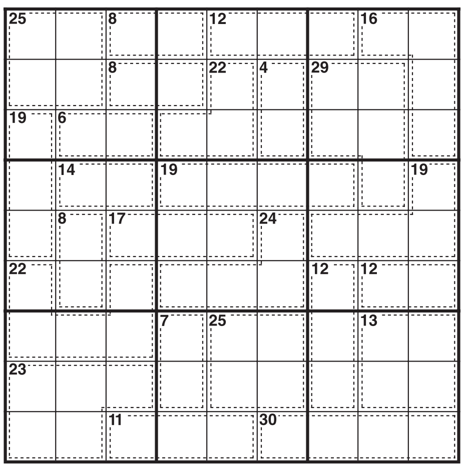
© PUZZLER MEDIA

Please note, BODMAS does not apply

Killer Moderate No 9075



Killer Tough No 9076



As with standard Sudoku, fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Each set of cells joined by dotted lines must add up to the target number in its top-left corner. Within each set of cells joined by dotted lines, a digit cannot be repeated.

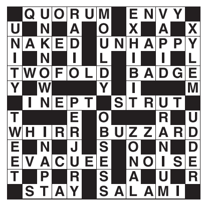
Cluelines Stuck on Sudoku, Killer or KenKen? Call 0901 293 6263 before midnight to receive four clues for any of today's puzzles. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

Solutions

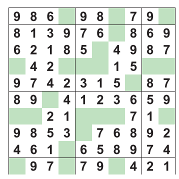
Quick Cryptic 2485



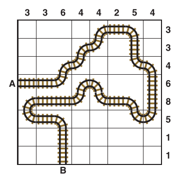
Codeword 5009



Kakuro 3525



Train Tracks 2042



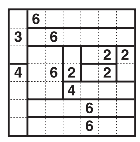
Sudoku 14,329

8	5	1	3	6	9	4	7	2
2	6	4	7	1	8	9	3	5
9	3	7	2	4	5	6	1	8
3	4	5	9	7	1	8	2	6
1	2	9	4	8	6	7	5	3
7	8	6	5	2	3	1	9	4
5	7	2	8	9	4	3	6	1
4	1	3	6	5	7	2	8	9
6	9	8	1	3	2	5	4	7

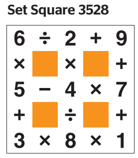
Sudoku 14,330

3	2	7	5	9	1	8	6	4
5	8	4	2	6	7	9	1	3
6	1	9	4	8	3	2	7	5
8	6	5	3	1	9	7	4	2
4	7	3	6	2	8	1	5	9
2	9	1	7	5	4	3	8	6
9	5	8	1	4	2	6	3	7
7	4	2	8	3	6	5	9	1
1	3	6	9	7	5	4	2	8

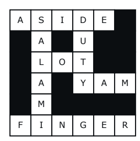
Cell Blocks 4892



Set Square 3528



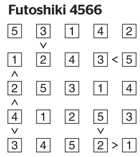
Lexica 7051



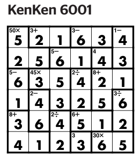
Sudoku 14,331

1	2	5	8	3	4	6	7	9
3	7	8	6	9	2	4	5	1
4	6	9	5	7	1	8	3	2
9	3	4	2	1	7	5	8	6
6	8	1	9	4	5	3	2	7
2	5	7	3	6	8	1	9	4
8	4	2	1	5	9	7	6	3
7	9	3	4	8	6	2	1	5
5	1	6	7	2	3	9	4	8

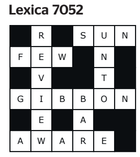
Futoshiki 4566



KenKen 6001



Lexica 7052



Killer 9073

9	3	8	7	4	5	1	2	6
1	7	5	6	9	2	8	3	4
2	6	4	3	8	1	9	5	7
6	4	3	1	7	9	2	8	5
5	1	2	8	6	4	7	9	3
8	9	7	2	5	3	6	4	1
4	5	6	9	2	7	3	1	8
3	8	9	5	1	6	4	7	2
7	2	1	4	3	8	5	6	9

Killer 9074

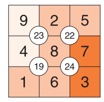
5	1	6	9	4	3	7	8	2
4	8	9	6	7	2	3	1	5
2	3	7	1	5	8	6	4	9
6	7	8	3	1	9	2	5	4
3	9	5	8	2	4	1	7	6
1	2	4	5	6	7	8	9	3
9	6	3	7	8	5	4	2	1
8	4	1	2	9	6	5	3	7
7	5	2	4	3	1	9	6	8

Today's solutions

Concise Quintagram
1 Wring
2 Atoll
3 Appeal
4 Weeding
5 Bracknell

Cryptic Quintagram
1 Chip
2 Chaos
3 Helium
4 Gardenia
5 Bargained

Suko 3911



Brain Trainer
Easy 96
Medium 639
Harder 6,498

Word watch

Ronnie (b) A moustache (*Collins*)
Prie-dieu (a) A desk or chair for prayer (*Chambers*)
Houyhnhnm (a) A horse with human characteristics (*OED*)

Chess — Winning Move

1 ... Qb2+! 2 Nxb2 and now the white king is hemmed in so 2 ... Rc1+ 3 Rxc1 Rxc1 is mate

Quiz

1 Barry Manilow **2** Zebra crossing **3** Charing Cross Road **4** Oliver Cromwell **5** Andrew Lloyd Webber **6** Captain James Cook **7** National Trust **8** Knutsford **9** Royal College of Physicians **10** *The Kentucky Fried Movie* **11** *Kim's Convenience* **12** Privet hawk-moth (*Sphinx ligustri*) **13** Howard Staunton **14** Lyon or Olympique Lyonnais **15** Macau

THE TIMES

MindGames

19.09.23

For extra puzzles
See page 10

Word watch
David Parfitt

Ronnie
a A pair of glasses
b A moustache
c A US film industry award

Prie-dieu
a A desk for prayer
b An exclamation of surprise
c Yesterday

Houyhnhnm
a A horse with human characteristics
b A clearing of the throat
c An order of angels

Answers on page 15

Sudoku

Mild No 14.332

						2	5	
						8		7
				4	3		6	9
			7	3		5		
4	3	6			2	9		
5		7	8		6			
1	8		3	7				
	4	9		5				
		5	4	2				

Difficult No 14,333

	8							
		1	7					6
2					4	8		
				4	2			
8	4	5	3		9	6	2	7
			5	7				
		7	1					5
9					5	2		
							1	

Super fiendish No 14,334

7	8	4						1
		3	4		2			
		1	3	8		2		6
				1		9		4
		7	2	4		1		3
		9	6		3			
6	3	5						8

© PUZZLER MEDIA

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

The Times Daily Quiz
Olav Bjortomt

1 "Fanilows" are fans of which American pop singer-songwriter?

2 Which type of pedestrian crossing derives its name from its black and white stripes?

3 The flagship shop of the bookseller Foyles is located at 107-109 on which London road?

4 Who was the first non-royal family member to become a head of state in Britain?

5 Who composed *Variations* for his cellist brother Julian in payment of a bet on a Leyton Orient match?

6 By charting New Zealand, which explorer proved that it wasn't a northern extension of the Great Southern Continent?

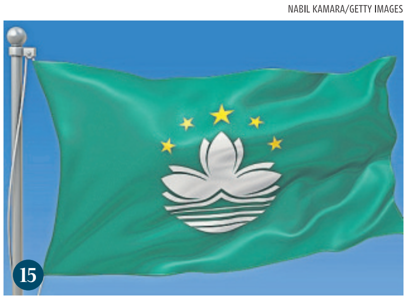
7 Founded in 1895, what is Europe's largest conservation charity?

8 The fictional Cranford of Elizabeth Gaskell's novel is based on which Cheshire town?

9 Thomas Linacre (c 1460-1524) was the founder and first president of which professional body?

10 Which 1977 comedy film features the *Enter the Dragon* spoof *A Fistful of Yen*?

NABIL KAMARA/GETTY IMAGES



11 Which 2011 play by Ins Choi was adapted into a Canadian sitcom that was cancelled after five seasons?

12 What is Britain's largest resident species of moth?

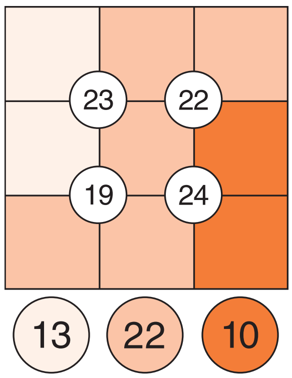
13 In 1849, Nathaniel Cooke patented the chess set that is named after which English chess master?

14 In 1987, Cegid founder Jean-Michel Aulas took control of which French football club?

15 Which special administrative region of China does this flag belong to?

Answers on page 15

Suko No 3911



Place the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding spaces, and each colour total is correct

For interactive puzzles visit thetimes.co.uk

TRAILFINDERS
THE TRAVEL EXPERTS

WHEREVER AND WHENEVER, TRUST TRAILFINDERS TO TAKE CARE OF YOU...

Trustpilot ★★★★★
"Truly excellent: patient, friendly, helpful & a mine of knowledge, tips and advice."

Local to You
43 high street Travel Centres staffed with expert Consultants across the UK & Ireland

Independent Trusted Travel Advice
On hand 365/24/7, we offer wholly impartial advice alongside an extensive range of hand-picked quality product

Unrivalled Care & Protection
Unique ATOL approved Trust Account

No Surcharges or Hidden Extras
With Trailfinders the price you see is the price you pay

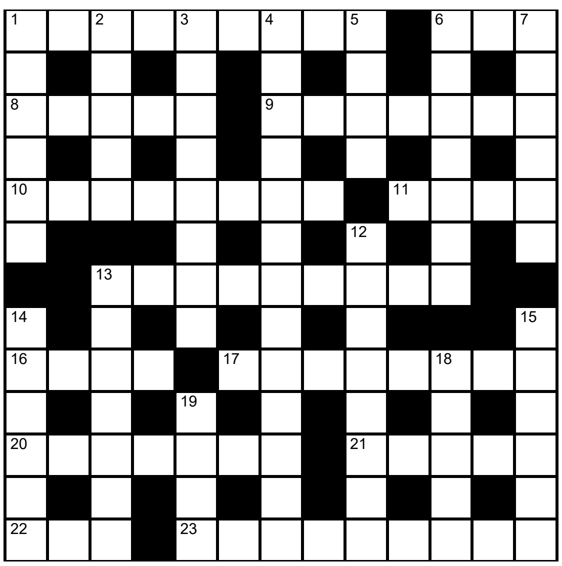


ALL YOUR TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS TAKEN CARE OF IN ONE PLACE

Call TRAILFINDERS on 020 7368 1364,
or visit your local Trailfinders Travel Centre

TF TRUST
ATOL LICENCE: 1458
caa.co.uk
IATA

The Times Quick Cryptic No 2486 by Orpheus



Across
1 One may buy tea drunk by ship's officer (9)
6 Preserve article by Conservative leader (3)
8 Sweethearts heading off for cricketing periods (5)
9 Weaponless, but suffering no hurt in East London? (7)
10 First night showing King Edward in break-up of Empire (8)
11 Overtake Dad's Lotus at last! (4)
13 Embark with celebrity — it's a sailor's right (9)
16 Fellow hotelier initially wearing close-fitting headgear (4)
17 To separate is odd after initiation of engagement (8)
20 Word in India for transport hubs (7)
21 Bones sailors originally identified (5)
22 Churchyard feature the present solver talked of (3)
23 Enthusiasm of sea eagles in various ages (9)

Down
1 Quick reminder given to player (6)
2 Magistrate once involved in macabre events (5)
3 Entertainer inspiring Greek character at a large infirmary (8)
4 Viciously attacking old fogey? Soldiers often do it (6-7)
5 Sound made by European river horse, perhaps (4)
6 Something fishy about minute fellow's decree (7)
7 One barely recognisable on certain beaches (6)
12 Storyteller climbing Scottish island peak (8)
13 Farm animal catching young salmon and singing bird (7)
14 Harebrained son of spiteful disposition (6)
15 Casual about motorway direction being repeated (6)
18 Old railwaymen given points to look after (5)
19 Function popular in the Kent area (4)

Yesterday's solution on page 15

Your holiday is ABTA and ATOL protected when you book with Imagine Holidays.

ABTA ABTA No.Y6300 | Fully protected | Amazing value | Exceptional service and expertise

Trustpilot Excellent

TIMES Travel Offers



PRINCESS

Princess Cruises Full Transit Panama Canal Discovery



16 nights | Jan Feb, 2024 | Prices from £1,799PP+

COMPLIMENTARY HOTEL STAY IN LOS ANGELES OR MIAMI*

A menagerie of cultures, vivid skies and natural wonders await on this magical cruise holiday travelling the world-famous Panama Canal and highlighting the treasures of Central and South America.

Arriving in Miami, you'll begin your holiday with an overnight stay, before joining the magnificent Emerald Princess® in port, for your incredible 15-night cruise.

A journey like no other, you'll enjoy calls to Colombia, Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Mexico affording lush rainforests, golden sands and intriguing coffee plantations, as well as a full transit of the revered Panama Canal.

One of the world's greatest marvels, a scenic cruise through the Panama Canal will truly be one to remember. As you sail from the Pacific to the Atlantic, you'll pass colonial cities and exotic scenery, encountering diverse wildlife from colourful parrots to charming sloths.



Explore Puerto Vallarta

Located in the sparkling blue Bay of Banderas, Puerto Vallarta is one of Mexico's most enticing treasures. Puerto Vallarta's azure skies, golden sands are embraced by the Sierra Madre Mountain.

Be sure to stroll along the oceanfront Malecón which offers endless bars, restaurants, regional art, culture and entertainment. Here, you'll witness the most magnificent sunsets setting over the Pacific.

Your Holiday Includes

Full-Board Cruise

- 15 night full-board cruise on board Emerald Princess®
- **Visiting+:** Fort Lauderdale, Cartagena, Panama Canal (scenic cruising), Fuerte Amador, San Juan del Sur, Huatulco, Puerto Vallarta, Los Angeles
- **Upgrade to Princess Plus for £50 per person per day and receive**
  - Plus Beverage Package**
  - Unlimited Wi-Fi
  - Included gratuities

Complimentary Hotel Stay

- One-night four-star hotel stay at the Novotel Miami Brickell*

All Flights and Optional Transfers^

- London departure – regional flights available

Fly Cruise prices from+

INTERIOR	£1,799PP
OCEANVIEW	£1,999PP
BALCONY	£2,599PP
MINI-SUITE	£3,799PP

ONLINE CRUISE CODE: AME7696

*Hotel based on January 21, 2024 departure. Mini-Suite prices based on January 6, 2024. ^Transfers are available at an additional cost. +Prices and itinerary shown are based on January 21, 2024 departure.**The Plus Beverage Package includes cocktails, wine, beer, spirits, fountain soda, specialty coffees, bottled water, teas and other individual beverages up to $15 USD each.

IMAGINE® CRUISING MORE THAN JUST A CRUISE.

For Imagine Cruising bookings call

0808 296 5306

thetimes.co.uk/imagine

Opening Hours: Monday to Sunday 9am–8pm

TIMES Travel Offers





2024 Croatia Island-Hopping Private Yacht & Magical Montenegro Experience

Ten nights | Apr - Oct, 2024

Prices from £1,999PP*

LIMITED TO 36 GUESTS PER SAILING

Fly Cruise prices from

LOWER DECK OUTSIDE PORTHOLE	£1,999PP
MAIN DECK OUTSIDE PORTHOLE WINDOWS	£2,499PP
UPPER BALCONY	£2,999PP
UPPER PREMIUM BALCONY	£3,999PP

ONLINE CRUISE CODE: MED7826

Experience the wonders of Croatia and Montenegro as you sail the glistening Adriatic coastline on board MS Roko.

This dream ten-night getaway is sprinkled with once-in-a-lifetime experiences. You'll travel in style on the resplendent MS Roko island-hopping to Korčula, Hvar, Split and Vis. You'll also tour the extraordinary Mljet National Park, before arriving in the enchanting city of Dubrovnik.

Once you've experienced the best of Croatia, you'll transfer to the five-star Maestral Resort & Casino Przno, Montenegro, following a cruise around the stunning waters of Boka Bay. Discover Cetinje, the old capital of Montenegro; the mountainous Lovćen National Park and sample delicacies in the village of Njegos.

During your stay, be sure to make use of the spa facilities, including a 30-minute massage to relax and rejuvenate. And to cap off your unforgettable experience, you'll enjoy a farewell gala dinner overlooking the beautiful town of Budva.

Your Holiday Includes

Half-Board Cruise

- Seven-night half-board cruise on board MS Roko
- **Visiting:** Dubrovnik, Korčula, Hvar, Split, Vis, Mljet National Park, Dubrovnik

Escorted Tours

- Walking tour of: Korčula, Hvar, Split, Mljet National Park and Dubrovnik
- Tours including: Boka Bay, Kotor, Cetinje, Lovćen National Park and Njegos for local cuisine tasting

Dining Experience

- Relish a decadent Captains Dinner on board MS Roko
- Experience a three-course farewell gala dinner overlooking the town of Budva

Luxury Hotel Stay

- Three-night five-star in Montenegro at the Maestral Resort and Casino with breakfast
- Enjoy a 30-minute Mediterranean massage

All Flights and Transfers

- London departure - regional flights available

*Prices based on April 28, 2024 departure. Upper Premium Balcony price based on May 5, 2024 departure. Main image is intended for illustrative purposes only.





Celebrity X Cruises

Ultra All-Inclusive Rhodes Retreat & Luxury Celebrity Mediterranean Voyage

12 nights | May - Aug, 2024

Prices from £1,999PP*

COMPLIMENTARY ALL-INCLUSIVE HOTEL STAY

Fly Cruise prices from*

INSIDE	£1,899PP
OCEAN VIEW	£2,199PP
VERANDA	£2,699PP
CONCIERGE CLASS	£3,099PP
AQUACLASS®	£3,399PP

ONLINE CRUISE CODE: MED7743

Embrace the beauty of Rhodes during a luxury five-night escape before delving into the Eastern Mediterranean on a magical all-inclusive cruise.

You'll begin your holiday by slipping into a sun-drenched world of relaxation, culture, and history during a five-night stay at the Mitsis Grand Hotel Beach hotel - the only five-star beachfront resort in Rhodes, before flying to ancient Athens.

The remarkable Celebrity Infinity® then awaits for your sumptuous Eastern Mediterranean sailing, taking you to glorious destinations in Greece and Turkey in inimitable Celebrity style.

Highlights of your cruise include glamorous Santorini, Mykonos' vibrant, blue-domed architecture and white cobbled streets, and a call to Turkey's Ephesus, offering gateway to historic Kuşadası. Explore ancient ruins, charming towns, bask on pristine beaches and relax with locals in quaint bars and cafés before returning to Athens where your holiday concludes.

Your Holiday Includes

All-Inclusive Cruise

- Seven-night all-inclusive cruise on board Celebrity Infinity®
- **Visiting***: Athens, Santorini, Kuşadası, Mykonos, Volos, Thessaloniki, Athens
- **Classic Drinks, Wi-Fi and Tips**

Complimentary Luxury Hotel Stay

- Five-night five-star ultra all-inclusive stay in Rhodes at the Rodos Village Beach Hotel & Spa

All Flights and Transfers

- London departure – regional flights available

*Prices and Itinerary shown are based on June 3, 2024 departure.

IMAGINE® CRUISING
MORE THAN JUST A CRUISE.

For Imagine Cruising bookings call

0808 296 5306

thetimes.co.uk/imagine

Opening Hours: Monday to Sunday 9am–8pm

TIMES Travel Offers

For full terms and conditions please visit thetimes.co.uk/imagine. Prices are correct at the time of print and are subject to change. Operated by and subject to the booking conditions of Imagine Cruising, a company wholly independent of News UK. Imagine Cruising are fully ABTA and ATOL bonded. Offer applies to new bookings only.



CUNARD

Italian Lakes Trio & Luxury Cunard Eastern Mediterranean Cruise



14 - 15 nights | May - Sep, 2024 | Prices from £2,499PP+

SCENIC SWISS RAIL JOURNEY ON BOARD BERNINA EXPRESS

Delve into the beguiling nature of the revered Italian Lakes before embarking on a journey steeped in history and culture with Cunard's Queen Victoria as she graces the Eastern Mediterranean.

Surrounded by mountains and sprawling vineyards, you'll be charmed by lakes Garda, Como, and Maggiore during hotel stays. Explore enchanting landscapes, Baroque architecture, and fascinating culture and cherish a Swiss rail journey on the Bernina Express.

Following your Italian Lakes experience, you'll transfer to Florence for an overnight stay and embark Queen Victoria. Highlights of your sailing include the vibrant island of Cephalonia, Greece's popular Corfu, maze-lined Kotor, and the 'Pearl of the Adriatic', Dubrovnik.

The illustrious Queen Victoria will then deliver you to Trieste, where your holiday comes to an end. Here, you'll disembark and transfer to the airport to begin your journey home.



Swiss rail journey on board the Bernina Express

A journey on board the Bernina Express will take you past sapphire-hued glaciers and dramatic, jagged mountains, as well as astonishing architectural wonders. Among these is the single-track Brusio spiral viaduct that boasts nine stunning stone arches. Along your journey, you will also traverse through the Bernina Pass – where exceptional views of Lake Bianco and the snow-clad Morteratsch Glacier are yours to savour – before you'll reach the glamorous resort town of St. Moritz.

Your Holiday Includes

Full-Board Cruise

- Seven-night full-board cruise on board Queen Victoria
- **Visiting:** Civitavecchia (Rome), Cephalonia, Corfu, Kotor, Dubrovnik, Trieste

Rail Journey

- Scenic rail journey through the Swiss Alps on board the Bernina Express

Hotel Stays*

- Two-night four-star stay in Lake Garda at the Splendido Bay Hotel
- Two-night four-star stay at the Sheraton Lake Como Hotel
- Two-night night four-star stay in Lake Maggiore at the Zacchera Hotel Collection
- One-night four-star stay in Florence at the Grand Hotel Baglioni
- All hotel stays include breakfast

All Flights & Transfers

Fly Cruise prices from+

INSIDE	£2,499PP
OCEANVIEW	£2,899PP
BALCONY	£3,299PP
GRILL SUITE	£4,499PP

ONLINE CRUISE CODE: MED7664

+Prices based on August 12, 2024 departure. *Hotel stays may vary depending on departure date.

IMAGINE® CRUISING
MORE THAN JUST A CRUISE.

For Imagine Cruising bookings call
0808 296 5306

thetimes.co.uk/imagine
Opening Hours: Monday to Sunday 9am–8pm

TIMES Travel Offers

For full terms and conditions please visit thetimes.co.uk/imagine. Prices are correct at the time of print and are subject to change. Operated by and subject to the booking conditions of Imagine Cruising, a company wholly independent of News UK. Imagine Cruising are fully ABTA and ATOL bonded. Offer applies to new bookings only.



SILVERSEA

Luxury Silversea Cruise, All-Inclusive Bali Bliss & Japan in Bloom



23 nights | March 14, 2024 | Prices from £7,999PP

COMPLIMENTARY UPGRADE TO A CLASSIC VERANDA SUITE

Discover the compelling contrasts of blissful Bali and scintillating Tokyo during this incredible cruise holiday, paired with a thrilling tour of Mount Fuji.

Cliffside temples overlooking the sea, tranquil sunsets that turn the sweet-smelling nutmeg forests gold and active volcanos looped with walking trails that reveal beautiful views: Bali has it all. And it's where your holiday begins with a five-night beach escape at the luxurious Nusa Dua Hotel & Spa.

Next, you'll embark the fabulous *Silver Muse* and settle in for an all-inclusive Southeast Asia cruise that explores the Philippines, Taiwan, and the jewels of Japan.

Your cruise ends in Tokyo where you'll enjoy a three-night hotel stay and a tour of Mount Fuji. One of the world's most endlessly fascinating cities, its where ancient shrines nestle in the shadow of high-rises and the cherry blossom season garlands the streets in a riot of pink.



Nusa Dua Beach Hotel & Spa, Bali

Experience exquisite Balinese hospitality with a decadent stay at the five-star Nusa Dua Beach Hotel & Spa. Here you'll savour a truly stunning setting of manicured tropical gardens, inviting outdoor pools and swaying palms, as well as enjoying wonderful access to Nusa Dua Beach. Surrounded by classic Balinese architecture, you'll feel like royalty during your extravagant escape. And with four restaurants to choose from you'll relish the luxury of choice with a fabulous array of delicious cuisine to choose from.

Your Holiday Includes

All-Inclusive Cruise

- 16 night all-inclusive luxury cruise on board *Silver Muse*
- **Visiting:** Bali, Coron, Manila, Kaohsiung, Keelung, Naha, Kagoshima, Osaka, Yokohama (Tokyo)
- Complimentary premium shore excursions included at every port*

Complimentary Fully Escorted Tours

- Tour of Mount Fuji including the Hakone Ropeway cable car
- Boat trip across Lake Ashi
- High-speed bullet train to Tokyo

Complimentary Hotel Stays

- Four-night five-star all-inclusive hotel stay in Bali at the Nusa Dua Beach Hotel & Spa
- Three-night four-star hotel stay at the Grand Nikko Tokyo Daiba

All Flights and Transfers

- London departure – regional flights available

Fly Cruise prices from

VISTA SUITE	Sold Out
CLASSIC VERANDA SUITE	£7,999PP
SUPERIOR VERANDA SUITE	£8,499PP
DELUXE VERANDA SUITE	£8,899PP

ONLINE CRUISE CODE: ASA7639

*Offer includes one excursion per guest, per port/day. Additional excursions available at an extra charge.

IMAGINE® CRUISING
MORE THAN JUST A CRUISE.

For Imagine Cruising bookings call
0808 296 5306

thetimes.co.uk/imagine
Opening Hours: Monday to Sunday 9am–8pm

TIMES Travel Offers

For full terms and conditions please visit thetimes.co.uk/imagine. Prices are correct at the time of print and are subject to change. Operated by and subject to the booking conditions of Imagine Cruising, a company wholly independent of News UK. Imagine Cruising are fully ABTA and ATOL bonded. Offer applies to new bookings only.



Holland America Line

Luxury All-Inclusive New Zealand Voyage and Indian Pacific Discovery



27 nights | February 20, 2024 | Prices from £5,499PP

COMPLIMENTARY HOTEL STAYS IN AUCKLAND, PERTH AND SYDNEY

Delve into eclectic Australia and tropical New Zealand alongside stays in Auckland and Sydney, before your epic Indian Pacific journey across Australia's rust-hued Outback.

You'll kickstart your holiday with two nights in charming Auckland before you'll embark the sophisticated Noordam. Highlights of your voyage include the vibrant waters of the Bay of Islands, and Napier, sitting poised among wine-producing regions.

You'll also call at Dunedin, home to Larnach Castle, before savouring scenic cruising through the dramatic beauty of Fiordland National Park. The magic of Melbourne and charming Georgian architecture of Hobart then await, before you'll bid farewell to Noordam in Sydney.

Following a four-night stay here – where you could witness its iconic Opera House and more – an epic Indian Pacific rail journey lies ahead. Embrace Australia's beautifully isolated Outback as unforgettable vistas pass you, and relish captivating all-inclusive Off Train Experiences.



Fiordland National Park

Nestled in the southwest corner of New Zealand's South Island, Fiordland National Park is a breathtaking wilderness sanctuary of enthralling and awe-inspiring landscapes.

With its towering mountains, deep fiords, and pristine lakes, Fiordland offers a paradise for outdoor enthusiasts and nature lovers.Uncover the iconic Milford Sound and Doubtful Sound, hike the famous Kepler Track, and marvel at the abundant wildlife that calls this UNESCO World Heritage site home.

Your Holiday Includes

All-Inclusive Cruise

- 16 night all-inclusive cruise on board Noordam
- Visiting: Auckland, Bay of Islands, Napier, Christchurch, Timaru, Dunedin, Fiordland National Park (scenic cruising), Melbourne, Burnie, Hobart (overnight in port), Port Arthur, Sydney

All-Inclusive Rail Journey

- Three-night all-inclusive rail journey on board the Indian Pacific from Sydney to Perth with all meals, fine wines, and beverages included
- All-inclusive Off Train Experiences and short stops in Broken Hill, Adelaide, Cook and Rawlinna

Complimentary Hotel Stays

- Four-star hotel stays in Auckland, Sydney and Perth
- All hotel stays include breakfast

All Flights and Transfers

- London departure - regional flights available

Fly Cruise prices from*

INSIDE	£5,499PP
OCEAN VIEW	£5,999PP
VERANDAH	£6,999PP
SIGNATURE SUITE	£7,999PP

ONLINE CRUISE CODE: AUS7437

*Prices are per person based on two adults sharing a cruise cabin or suite and includes flights from London (regional flights available at a supplement).

IMAGINE® CRUISING
MORE THAN JUST A CRUISE.

For Imagine Cruising bookings call

0808 296 5306

thetimes.co.uk/imagine

Opening Hours: Monday to Sunday 9am–8pm

TIMES Travel Offers

For full terms and conditions please visit thetimes.co.uk/imagine. Prices are correct at the time of print and are subject to change. Operated by and subject to the booking conditions of Imagine Cruising, a company wholly independent of News UK. Imagine Cruising are fully ABTA and ATOL bonded. Offer applies to new bookings only.



CUNARD

No-Fly Queen Anne Voyage, Italian Lakes and Luxury All-Inclusive Venice Simplon-Orient-Express



17 nights | September 8, 2024 | Prices from £6,499PP

COMPLIMENTARY NINE-NIGHT ITALIAN LAKES ESCAPE | COMPLIMENTARY OCEANVIEW TO BALCONY UPGRADE

Savour a luxurious cruise on board Cunard's brand-new Queen Anne, delve into the shining Italian Lakes, and relish a classic journey on board the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express to Paris.

Kickstart your holiday in Southampton where you'll embark Cunard's newest shining vessel, Queen Anne, delighting in gourmet dining, luxurious cabins, and grand ballrooms. You could enjoy Afternoon Tea or experience extravagant shows between calls to vivacious Cádiz and Barcelona – a city drenched in culture, history, art, and architecture.

You'll next disembark in Italy's Civitavecchia, before exploring Florence's centuries-old architecture during a two-night stay. You'll then enjoy scenic waterfront walks at the Italian Lakes with stays at lakes Como, Maggiore, and Garda. Take in breathtaking mountain views on board the Bernina Express to St. Moritz before you'll later embark the highly sophisticated, all-inclusive Venice Simplon-Orient-Express from Verona before your Eurostar journey home.



Venice Simplon-Orient Express

The all-inclusive Venice Simplon-Orient-Express is a highly sought-after luxury train journey that offers an immersive encounter with the golden age of travel.

With opulent décor, gourmet dining, and unparalleled service, this journey takes you through Europe's most stunning landscapes. Iconic carriages, timeless elegance, and attention to detail make it an unforgettable experience – it's no wonder that this train is considered one of the most luxurious in the world.

Your Holiday Includes

Full-Board Cruise

- Seven-night full-board cruise on board the **brand-new** Queen Anne
- **Visiting:** Southampton, Cádiz, Barcelona, Ajaccio, Civitavecchia
- **Complimentary Oceanview to Balcony upgrade**

Rail Journeys

- Complimentary scenic rail journey through the Swiss Alps on board the Bernina Express
- Two-day all-inclusive luxury Venice Simplon-Orient-Express train journey from Verona to Paris
- Standard Premier Eurostar rail journey from Paris to London

Complimentary Hotel Stays

- Four-star hotel stays in Florence, Lake Como, Lake Maggiore and Lake Garda
- All hotel stays include breakfast

All Transfers

No-Fly Cruise prices from*

INSIDE	£6,499PP
OCEANVIEW	£7,799PP
BALCONY	£7,799PP
GRILL SUITE	£9,799PP

ONLINE CRUISE CODE: MED7748

*Prices are per person based on two adults sharing a cruise cabin or suite.

IMAGINE® CRUISING
MORE THAN JUST A CRUISE.

For Imagine Cruising bookings call

0808 296 5306

thetimes.co.uk/imagine

Opening Hours: Monday to Sunday 9am–8pm

TIMES Travel Offers

For full terms and conditions please visit thetimes.co.uk/imagine. Prices are correct at the time of print and are subject to change. Operated by and subject to the booking conditions of Imagine Cruising, a company wholly independent of News UK. Imagine Cruising are fully ABTA and ATOL bonded. Offer applies to new bookings only.



All-Inclusive Cambodia & Vietnam Mekong River Cruise



14 nights | Oct, 2024 - Apr, 2025 | Prices from £3,399PP*

SALE NOW ON: SAVE UP TO £800 PER COUPLE+ - ENDS SEPTEMBER 26, 2023

LIMITED TO 64 GUESTS PER SAILING | EXCLUSIVE TO IMAGINE HOLIDAYS

Delve into southeast Asia's wonders, with discovery tours, a mystical cruise along the Mekong River and a sumptuous beachfront stay.

Your epic adventure begins in Cambodia, with a two-night luxury stay and an enthralling Angkor Wat tour. Next, you'll join the Mekong Navigator for an all-inclusive river cruise along the mystical Mekong River. As you cruise along this almighty river, you'll be transported to a world of ancient temples and pagodas, Buddhist monasteries and busy port towns, with bustling markets, fishing villages, passing hidden villages, magical jungles and towering mountains.

Disembarking in Mỹ Tho, you'll transfer to Ho Chi Minh City for two nights. While here, you'll also visit the captivating Cù Chi Tunnels, before transferring to Phan Thiết for a phenomenal three-night beachfront stay at Anantara Mui Ne Resort & Spa, gifting you the chance to relax and recuperate.



Experience Angkor Wat

As the world's largest temple, Angkor Wat is a sight to behold. This awe-inspiring temple is beautiful both from afar and close-up; admire the corncob towers rising majestically and marvel at the stunning intricacy as the stones change colour with the altering light of the day.

You'll also visit the fortified city of Angkor Thom and the Bayon Temple, richly decorated with hundreds of stone faces and atmospheric Ta Prohm.

Your Holiday Includes

Luxury Hotel Stays

- Three-night five-star hotel stay in Phan Thiet at the Anantara Mui Ne Resort
- Two-night five-star stay in Ho Chi Minh City at the Grand Hotel Saigon
- Two-night five-star hotel stay in Siem Reap at the Borei Angkor Resort & Spa
- All hotel stays include breakfast

All-Inclusive Cruise

- Seven-night all-inclusive river cruise on board Mekong Navigator
- **Visiting^:** Siem Reap, Angkor Thom, Wat Hanchey, Angkor Ban, Phnom Penh, Long Khánh Island, Mỹ An Hưng A, Sa Đéc, Cái Bè, Ho Chi Minh City, Phan Thiết

Fully Escorted Tours

- Củ Chi Tunnels
- Angkor Wat

All Flights and Transfers

- London departure

Holiday prices from*

SUPERIOR SUITE	£3,299PP
VISTA SUITE	£4,599PP
SIGNATURE SUITE	£4,599PP
PRESTIGE SUITE	£5,599PP
GRANDE SUITE	£5,999PP

*Prices shown based on December, 2024 departure. Superior Suite and Signature Suite prices are based on October, 2024 departure. ^Itinerary may operate in reverse depending on departure date. +Prices shown include discount and savings based on two passengers sharing a Superior Suite, departing October, 2024.

IMAGINE HOLIDAYS
MORE THAN JUST A HOLIDAY.

For Imagine Holidays bookings call
0808 239 0509

thetimes.co.uk/imagineholidays
Opening Hours: Monday to Sunday 9am–8pm

TIMES Travel Offers

For full terms and conditions please visit thetimes.co.uk/imagineholidays. Prices are correct at the time of print and are subject to change. Operated by and subject to the booking conditions of Imagine Holidays, a company wholly independent of News UK. Imagine Holidays are fully ABTA and ATOL bonded. Offer applies to new bookings only.



Shimla Express & India's Golden Triangle



12 nights | Nov, 2023 - Mar, 2025 | Prices from £1,999PP*

SCENIC HIMALAYAS RAIL JOUNRNEY AND RANTHAMBORE GAME DRIVES | TWELVE-NIGHT FIVE-STAR HOTEL STAYS

Experience the vibrant colours, sights and sounds of India during an iconic rail journey and a series of immersive tours, as you explore the gleaming Golden Triangle.

Embark on the renowned Kalka-Shimla Toy Train towards Shimla, where you'll spend three nights exploring the city alongside an insightful sightseeing tour and exhilarating Himalayas walking trail.

Your Golden Triangle experience begins in multi-layered Delhi, where you'll savour an Old and New Delhi tour before travelling to Agra to behold the world-famous Taj Mahal.

From here, venture into the wilderness at Ranthambore and seek glimpses of India's wildlife, including tigers, jackals, sloth bears, and wild boar^.

You'll explore the enthralling 16th century city, Fatehpur Sikri, before admiring the fairy-tale Amber Fort and the intriguing Hawa Mahal, and savour breathtaking views of Maota Lake in Jaipur.



Rail Journey on board the Kalka-Shimla Toy Train

Embark the Kalka-Shimla Toy Train for a journey through a spellbinding Unesco World Heritage site railway track. Step back in time on board as this compact train, built in 1903, whizzes through 102 tunnels, Gothic bridges, and angles around tight twists and stunning curves on this epic track.

As the Shimla Express winds its way upwards, you'll delight in breathtaking vistas of mountains, waterfalls, pine forests, and jungles of wildflowers.

Your Holiday Includes

Rail Journey

- One-day rail journey from Kalka to Shimla on board the Himalayan Queen Toy Train

Fully Escorted Tours

- Tour of India's Golden Triangle including the Taj Mahal, Amber Fort, the City Palace and much more
- Trail walk through the Himalayas
- Game drives through Ranthambore National Park^
- Shimla sightseeing city tour

Hotel Stays

- Five-star hotel stays in Delhi, Shimla, Agra, Ranthambore and Jaipur
- All hotel stays include breakfast

All Flights & Transfers

- London departure - regional flights available

Holiday prices from*

TWIN SHARE	£1,999PP

*Prices and itinerary shown are based on April, 2024 departure. Tour may operate in reverse direction for certain departure dates. ^Wildlife sightings are not guaranteed.

IMAGINE HOLIDAYS
MORE THAN JUST A HOLIDAY.

For Imagine Holidays bookings call
0808 239 0509

thetimes.co.uk/imagineholidays
Opening Hours: Monday to Sunday 9am–8pm

TIMES Travel Offers

For full terms and conditions please visit thetimes.co.uk/imagineholidays. Prices are correct at the time of print and are subject to change. Operated by and subject to the booking conditions of Imagine Holidays, a company wholly independent of News UK. Imagine Holidays are fully ABTA and ATOL bonded. Offer applies to new bookings only.